

Governor demands chains for prisoners in insecure court

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are being routinely handcuffed and chained when they visit the lavatories at one of London's busiest crown courts because security is so inadequate.

Gates in the custody complex at Inner London Crown Court in south London have no locks and some exit doors have not been equipped with specialised apparatus designed to prevent escapes. More than 3,000 cases were dealt with at the court last year.

The head of custody at Belmarsh, Britain's newest top-security jail, has warned prison officers about the security gaps and has told them

to increase their control measures on prisoners in the building, which has recently been refurbished. He has told the officer in charge of security at the court to hold a daily briefing session with his staff to alert them to problems and weaknesses.

The disclosures are a further embarrassment for the government, already under pressure over the escapes from Group 4 during its first week of running a privatised prison escort service. Derek Lewis, director-general of the prison service, will hold talks with directors of Group 4 in London today.

In a letter to the court

authorities, Arthur Lightfoot, head of custody at Belmarsh prison in Woolwich, southeast London, says that difficulties have arisen because of delays in providing new locks on doors and gates inside the court complex. He says in the letter, seen by *The Times*: "The problems caused by the delay in relocking the court are serious and require active management intervention if we are to prevent prisoners taking advantage of these weaknesses in our perimeter security."

Some exit doors in the cell block have not been fitted with a security lock and others have nothing more than a bolt and chain, according to prison service sources. Prison officers have expressed their concern to *The Times* about the lack of security in the custody complex. "Half the doors down there have no proper security locks on them and problems have arisen with a relocking programme," one officer said.

Mr Lightfoot's instructions to his staff include placing prisoners "under restraint" when they are out of their cells. It is usual for them to move around freely inside a custody area. Women prisoners are to be handcuffed and, in some circumstances, chained when they go to the lavatory. All escape routes must be covered when prisoners are getting on or off vehicles.

A prisoner broke away from two guards and escaped by jumping 30ft from the sixth-floor window of a hospital on Tuesday night, David Potter, 22, a convicted burglar, landed on a roof at Whittington Hospital, north London, and ran off.

Prosecutors 'fail to weed out weak cases'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Crown Prosecution Service is failing to weed out hundreds of weak cases that go to trial and end in acquittal, research for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, published yesterday, says. The study examined 100 crown court cases that ended in acquittal and concluded that the outcome could have been predicted in a quarter of the cases before, at or just after committal. At least 15 per cent were "foreseeably weak" before committal and should have been discontinued or the evidence strengthened before the case came to trial.

On the basis of the sample, hundreds of weak cases a year could be going to the crown

court, where trials cost £7,000 a day, and being thrown out. The research raises questions about the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in discharging its role as a filter between police and courts. It is certain to provide ammunition for the commission to recommend a tightening of standards.

The researchers call for the abolition of committal proceedings, closer liaison between the CPS, witnesses and victims in the run-up to trial; and clarification of counsel's obligation to advise the CPS on weaknesses in the case. The CPS should have power to discontinue cases up to the point of crown court trial.



No absolute right or wrong: the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales, after yesterday's debate

Welsh in favour of women priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Anglican Church in Wales voted overwhelmingly in favour of women priests yesterday, four months after the Church of England debated the issue.

A bill to ordain women priests was carried by 199 votes to 97, with three abstentions, at a meeting of the governing body, the Welsh equivalent of the General Synod. The bill, which will need a two-thirds majority at the decisive vote next year, makes no provisions for financial compensation for clergy who

resign through reasons of conscience. The Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales, said the Church in Wales should attempt to move out of its static position on doctrine. Speaking before the vote, the archbishop said it was the duty of bishops to maintain the cohesive nature of the church.

"So far the endless debates have shown that there is no absolute right or absolute wrong on the subject," he said. "As members of the church community, we should not attempt to create a climate of fear, prejudice, aggression and mistrust." Preference to high office

in Wales should remain open to all, whatever their convictions about women priests, he said.

The Right Rev Roy Davies, the Bishop of Llandaff, the only bishop to vote against, said: "The issue will not go away, but until there is more evidence of consensus it would be irresponsible in my view to press for change."

Canon Peter Edwards, from Newport, said the Church of England vote had subverted the delicate balance of Anglicanism. The effect was that four centuries of Anglican compromise were beginning to unravel, he said.

Iran gives warning on Rushdie meeting

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

IRAN said last night that a high-level British trade mission was in jeopardy as a result of the government's increasing support for Salman Rushdie, including plans for the author to meet John Major.

In a hostile communiqué reflecting anger in Tehran at Mr Rushdie's rising political profile, the official news agency Irna warned that damage to Anglo-Iranian relations "could go much further than economic ties" if Mr Major went ahead with his meeting. Several leading members of the Conservative party have criticised Mr Major for his plans to meet Mr Rushdie, confirmed by Downing Street on Monday.

Irna claimed the London Chamber of Commerce was trying to salvage the mission, said to be the first sponsored by the trade ministry in Tehran since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

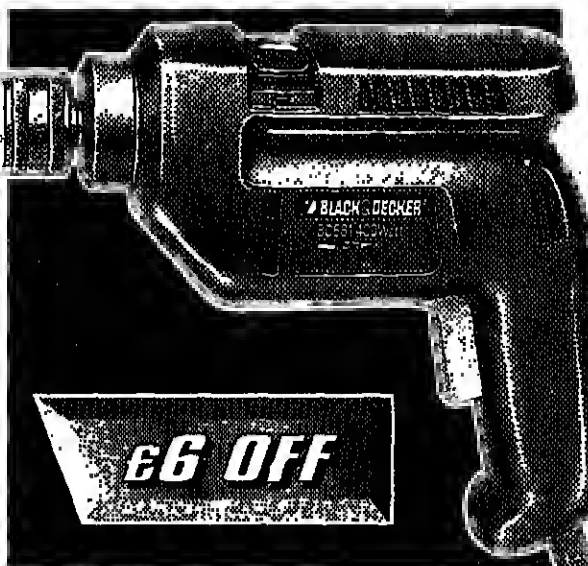
Iran and Britain resumed limited diplomatic relations in September 1990 after an 18-month break over the fatwa or religious ruling calling on Muslims to kill the author.

The agency said: "The visit by eight British companies looks likely to be the first victim of the UK government's renewed attempt to make the fatwa a political dispute, which started with Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg's publicised meeting with Rushdie in February."

It added that a decision from the Iranian government was still awaited on the issuing of visas to members of the British trade mission, planned for next month, but "signs are that it will have to be at least postponed".

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Opera goes ahead with £150m plan

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE directors of the Royal Opera House yesterday expressed determination to press ahead with the £150 million development of the Covent Garden site, rebuffing planning difficulties, critical appraisals of the scheme and accusations of elitism.

Jeremy Isaacs, general director of Covent Garden, said that the scheme, now conceived as a mission, would go ahead with the help of private and lottery money.

Currently lacking £90 million, the development project suffered a setback last month when Westminster City Council refused planning permission for part of it. The council wants proof that all the funds are available for the whole scheme before it will give the go-ahead.

Covent Garden's reliance on lottery money before the game has been set up is likely to anger other arts bodies which are hoping for a share of the cash. The opera house wants £45 million over five years from the scheme, which is likely to produce about £70 million a year for the arts. A long-planned public appeal for funds will be launched by the end of the year.

Detractors claim that lottery money would be misapplied on the opera house, which caters for a minority of the population. Mr Isaacs said: "I do not think we are being greedy. I think we are just fighting our corner." He stressed that development was necessary, if only to bring the opera house up to modern health and safety standards.

Ticket price rises of four and a half per cent were announced yesterday, together with a package of specially subsidised performances at low prices on Saturday nights. Covent Garden expects to achieve a surplus of £266,000 for the 1993-4 financial year, bringing its overall deficit down to £3.6 million. The financial situation has been eased by an anonymous overseas donor who has pledged £2.5 million in instalments over three years.

Marking could be privatised

Continued from page 1

High Court ruling that the boycott by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) is legal.

At present, the tests and assessment are undertaken by classroom teachers who send marks to the education department to compile national league tables. Education ministers are investigating a switch to a system where teachers are responsible only for invigilating tests and returning pupils' scripts for outside examiners to mark.

However, the cost of employing outside examiners would be substantial and dramatically increase the workload of the private examination boards.

The NASUWT further reduced the scope for compromise yesterday when delegates at its annual conference in Bournemouth endorsed its boycott and condemned national school league tables.

They voted unanimously for a resolution calling on Mr Patten to suspend this summer's tests, start talks to slim the curriculum and introduce "sensible testing" and reduce teachers' workload.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said a maximum 35-hour week should replace the present legal minimum of 32.5 hours.

At the weekend, the National Union of Teachers, whose president is Doug McAvoy, voted for strikes over pay and a ballot on a boycott of appraisal in schools.

Mr McAvoy, union vote for pay strikes

Police to infiltrate new age convoys

Undercover police officers are infiltrating hippy convoys in the West Country in an attempt to prevent illegal "new age" summer festivals. Earlier this month the government announced plans for tough curbs on new age travellers and illegal camping.

Twenty-six police forces are co-operating in Operation Snapshot, which will co-ordinate information about illegal trespassing and travellers' movements, including descriptions of vehicles and registration numbers.

The officers will adopt a hippy lifestyle but will be equipped with sophisticated miniature cameras to help them gather information about where the travellers are planning to gather. They will also be watching for criminal activity including drug dealing, and will assist efforts to combat social security fraud.

Stars raise Aids profile

Television reports of celebrities such as Freddie Mercury and Rudolf Nureyev dying from Aids or declaring themselves HIV-positive are doing more to raise public awareness of the disease than documentaries, talk shows or dramas, a report published today says. The survey, commissioned by the Independent Television Commission, shows that coverage of the Princess of Wales at the bedside of Aids sufferers has played an important part in increasing public knowledge of the illness.

Knocked out of the ring

Lloyd Honeyghan, the former world welterweight champion, and Darren Dyer, a professional boxer, were yesterday involved in a confrontation in a London pub after which Honeyghan was detained overnight in Guy's Hospital for observation of a head injury. Dyer, Honeyghan's former training partner, was interviewed by Waltham police.

Soldier dies in train fall

A soldier died after falling from a 100mph Aberdeen to London InterCity train. The soldier, with the Royal Highland Fusiliers, was killed instantly in the incident near Redford, Nottinghamshire, on Tuesday night. BR has taken the train out of service for engineers to begin an investigation and has appealed for witnesses.

Top teacher doubts tests

Maeve Carty, an English teacher at a school in Enniskillen, co. Fermanagh, and Britain's newly-crowned Teacher of the Year, yesterday added to the calls for a suspension of national curriculum tests, which arrives in Northern Ireland next year. "They do not do justice to what has been done in school," she said.

ITV complaints increase

Complaints to the Independent Television Commission in the first three months of this year increased by more than 300 per cent over the same period last year. Changes to the new Teletext service and withdrawal or rescheduling of a number of popular programmes under the new ITV network arrangements accounted for much of the increase.

Catholic awarded £30,000 by tribunal

By EDWARD CORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic nurse in Northern Ireland was yesterday awarded the biggest settlement in damages in a case of alleged religious discrimination at work.

The province's Northern Health and Social Services Board agreed to pay Mary Elizabeth Hughes, a nurse from Portlough, co. Londonderry, £30,000 in damages. The sum represents the maxi-

mum available in the Fair Employment Tribunal if the hearing into the case had been concluded and the complaint upheld.

Staff at the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Commission, which supported Mrs Hughes, are delighted by the outcome and hope that it will encourage employers to abide by its code of practice.

Mrs Hughes had alleged unlawful religious discrimination after her failure to be shortlisted for a post of unit director

for nursing. The settlement was reached after four days of a hearing before the tribunal.

The board accepted that Mrs Hughes was justified in her complaint and that the way in which shortlisting criteria had been applied was improper. It said that it had now introduced measures to prevent a similar situation arising again, and apologised to Mrs Hughes. The board denied the matter had been one of religious discrimination.

Iran gives warning on Rushdie meeting

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

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In a hostile communiqué reflecting anger in Tehran at Mr Rushdie's rising profile, the official news agency Irna warned that damage to Anglo-Iranian relations "could go much further than economic ties" if Mr Rushdie went ahead with his meeting.

Several leading members of the Conservative party criticised Mr Major's plans to meet Mr Rushdie, confirmed by Downing Street on Monday.

Irna claimed the British Chamber of Commerce was trying to salvage the mission, said to be the first visit by the trade mission to Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Iran and Britain have limited diplomatic relations since September 1980, following a month-long break in relations following the Islamic revolution. The agencies said by eight British people were removed from Iran in 1980. The agencies said by eight British people were removed from Iran in 1980.

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Conservationists fight to save 'most beautiful walk in the North'

By NIGEL BURNHAM

PART of the Yorkshire Dales described as "the most beautiful walk in the North of England" by Alfred Wainwright, the renowned walking guide, is at the centre of a conflict over conservation.

English Nature and the Countryside Commission want an order to prevent limestone from Helke Mount, Inglet, being taken for rockeries and walls. But landowners claim the order is unnecessary bureaucracy.

The dispute is likely to reach a head tonight at a meeting of Yorkshire Dales National Park committee.

The plan is to protect all the Dales limestone pavements, 35 areas of bare rock, and so far 19 limestone pavement orders have been made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Most have gone through without serious opposition.

But the attempt to protect Helke Mount, 136 acres of stepped limestone pavement on the side and top of a steep gorge overlooking Ingleton waterfalls walk, has had a hostile response from the co-owners of the land, Ingleton Scenery Company (ISC).

For 100 years, ISC has administered the celebrated four-mile walk, which runs

along the bottom of the gorge and has stunning views of 15 waterfalls. It argues that the limestone pavement is protected by an existing designation as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). There is also concern that the order would hamper the ISC's conservation work in the area. It may, for example, need to drive roadways through the pavement in order to manage woodland there.

Richard Challenor of Davis and Bowring, managing agent for ISC, said: "We shouldn't be put to the bureaucratic inconvenience of having to apply to the national park every time we want to chip away a small piece of limestone rock. We have 100,000 people a year taking the walk and no one complains about the way we look after it."

Mark Owen, the national park's ecologist, said: "This is not bureaucracy for bureaucracy's sake. We have the largest amount of limestone pavements in the country and we have a special responsibility to protect them. Without protection the limestone at Helke Mount could well be removed for walling or rockery stone."



Rocky route: walkers negotiate the limestone pavement near Ingleton, North Yorkshire, where environmentalists want a protection order

Court told how JP made gas chamber to murder his wife

By JAMES LANDALE

A MAGISTRATE who tried to kill his sleeping wife with a home-made portable gas chamber killed the family cat while testing the equipment, a court was told yesterday.

Cranog Jones, 44, attempted to place a wooden box linked to a car exhaust over his wife's head while she slept in bed, Winchester Crown Court was told. He then intended to put the body into the car to make the death look like suicide.

Christopher Clark QC, for the prosecution, said that the "clever, devious and evil scheme" was something "straight out of a case that Monsieur Poirot considers on a Sunday night on television". Mr Jones, of Brockhampton, Gloucestershire, is charged with the attempted murder of his wife, Margaret, 42, in the early hours of December 7, 1991. He denies the charge. The court was told that Mr Jones fixed a hosepipe to the exhaust of his wife's car and ran it across a conservatory roof to a hole he had drilled in the bedroom wall. He then attached a flexible hose to a square wooden box which he planned to put over her head which was "rather like a diver's helmet".

However, at 3.05am, Mrs Jones was woken by the noise of the car engine. When she turned on the bedroom light, she was met by an "extraordinary sight", the court heard.

"There, at the foot of the bed, was her husband clutching a wooden box two foot square and two foot high," Mr Clark said. "From the box came a noise, like the sound of a car engine."

The engine was running on full choke and carbon monoxide was coming through the hose into the box. A blue quilt lay on the bed, ready to "help contain the gas around the head of the sleeping Mrs Jones when the box had been put over her head", Mr Clark said. "It might have also been to help muffle the sound of the car."

Mrs Jones immediately re-

alised something was wrong and said to her husband: "What the hell do you think you are doing?"

The court was told that Mr Jones wanted to make the death look like suicide. "The plan was to kill her and render her unconscious in bed and then to carry her inert body down into the garage and put it into the car and leave the engine running," Mr Clark said.

"The noise was the one thing Jones had not thought of when he put together his exceptionally clever plan to murder his wife," Mr Clark said. "It would have been the perfect murder."

Mrs Jones, 43, told the court she awoke in the dark-

ning. "I heard him take something off the roof. It sounded like a piece of plastic piping," Mrs Jones said. She then went to a nearby phone box to call the police.

After Mr Jones was discovered by his wife, he set about removing the evidence and almost succeeded, the court heard. "He disposed of the box, removed the piping from the bedroom and across the conservatory roof and put a sponge ball into the hole in the wall," Mr Clark said.

The court heard that two police arrived at the house ten minutes after Mrs Jones woke up. "But they could not find any evidence to substantiate the allegations being made by Mrs Jones," Mr Clark said.

Mr Jones had driven off and was arrested when he returned. Mr Jones allegedly tried out the equipment on the family cat 24 hours before the attempted murder. Mr Jones allegedly backed the car in the garage, trapping his youngest daughter Cassandra's pet kitten in a box until it was choked by the fumes. Mr Clark told the court: "Was it an accidental death? It may be that the clue is, as in a Sherlock Holmes story, 'The dogs that bark in the night' but the cat that was gassed in the morning," Mr Clark said that the cat was more of a guinea-pig. "It died and so he decided to try it out on his wife," he said.

The couple married in 1972 and had three children, Lisa, 19, Cranog Junior, 18, and Cassandra, nine, but by 1990 the marriage was faltering and divorce proceedings had begun.

The court heard that Mr Jones, who was head of training and education at Smith's Industries, a defence company, became obsessed with trying to prove that his wife was committing adultery, even though he was having an affair himself. He employed a private detective to follow his wife and taped all her phone calls in an attempt to prove she was unfaithful. The couple are now divorced.

The case continues.



Divorced: Margaret and Cranog Jones

Body may be woman missing for 20 years

By JAMES LANDALE

THE body of a woman, believed to be that of a housewife who disappeared 20 years ago, has been dug up by police at her former home in Swindon, Wiltshire. Joan Main, 35, disappeared in January 1973.

On Tuesday, after six weeks' digging, Wiltshire police discovered the body six feet beneath the back garden of the house where Mrs Main had lived with her husband.

Police said that the sex of the body could not be confirmed because it was in a "very advanced state of decomposition". However, a spokeswoman said later that the body was "believed to be that of Joan Main" from shreds of clothing and jewellery.

The body was taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon for a postmortem examination. Dental records would be used to identify the body. "We are now waiting for the results of that, which may take some little time," a spokesman said. "The coroner has been informed and there will be an inquest in due course."

Police had resumed their investigations after allegations late last year that Mrs Main had died, her body had been buried on a bonfire and the remains had been buried underneath the garage at the house. A nationwide police hunt was launched after Mrs Main was last seen waving her three children off to school from her new home in Haydon Wick, Swindon in January 1973.

David Main, 60, a plumber and gas engineer from Lechlade, Gloucestershire, was arrested last February and charged with the murder of his wife.



Joan Main: last seen 20 years ago

Solicitors jailed for stealing £1 m from clients to save firm

By BILL FROST

A SOLICITOR was yesterday sentenced to four and a half years in jail for stealing more than £1 million from his clients and defrauding mortgage companies to prop up his ailing law firm.

Roland Fernandes, 55, was told by the judge at Luton Crown Court: "You showed flagrant indifference to the interests of your clients. They relied on your integrity."

Outside the court yesterday Lewis Nicholson, one of the partnership's former clients, called for an enquiry into the role of the Law Society in the affair. He had first reported Fernandes, a former barrister, for serious malpractice at the end of 1980, 12 years before the solicitor came to trial.

Mr Nicholson said he had asked Fernandes for his legal papers in 1979. He subsequently realised that some of

his money, held by the solicitor, had gone missing and reported him to the society. Judge Gareth Davies had earlier told Fernandes: "It is not acceptable that you used your privileged position of trust to play games with other people's money."

Phillip Hyllon, Fernandes' partner in the Luton-based law firm, was jailed for three years after the jury was told how he had gambled hundreds of thousands of pounds of his clients' money on "doomed" business ventures.

Mr Nicholson said: "By November 1980 I had 39 allegations of malpractice. I presented this and asked the Law Society to investigate."

Fernandes had been found guilty by a jury of three charges of theft and one of fraud after two trials earlier this year. The offences in-

involved individual client accounts and the Halifax Building Society.

The court heard how Fernandes had turned to crime as his business began to fail. He fraudulently took out mortgages on his country home in Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, and began stealing clients' money.

Hyllon, 47, admitted one theft charge and two counts of fraud. He asked the court for six similar offences to be taken into consideration.

The Law Society said that £1.75 million in compensation had been paid to former clients and mortgage firms swindled by the pair.

Mr Nicholson said yesterday he would be sending a 46-page report to the home secretary "complaining about the Law Society's lack of action".

Russians search for ski-trek Britons

By BILL FROST

AS SNOW storms cleared in the Caucasus yesterday, rescue teams resumed their search for the four British climbers missing on the slopes of Mount Elbrus since Friday.

Shortly after first light, Russian airforce helicopters again flew low over the slopes of the 18,400ft peak where the party disappeared with a local guide. The Foreign Office said a British diplomat was heading for the search area and would be liaising with the rescue teams.

Dr John Milledge, 28, of Sheffield, Kenneth White, 42, of Dumbarton, Myles Plant, 42, of Lincoln, and Thomas Keely, 27, of Manchester, were members of a 15-strong group of ski-mountaineers on a holiday organised by High Adventure, a travel firm based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. They had split into three teams on Good Friday for an ascent of Mount Elbrus. Two teams returned safely but the third has not been seen since.

A spokeswoman for High Adventure said the search had been hampered by appalling weather, but conditions had improved yesterday morning. "The helicopters are able to go up and the search is continuing," she said.

Marina Ryklyna, a spokeswoman for the area's emergency services, said ten experienced mountain rescuers were "working the slopes". A smaller team was at the summit, where one man had been injured as the weather deteriorated.

The Ski Club of Great Britain warned yesterday against skiing off-piste after Olivia Marchington, 22, from Didmarion, Gloucestershire, was killed by an avalanche (Louise Hidalgo writes).

She was skiing near the French Alpine resort of Meribel on Monday when she was engulfed. Mountain rescue teams rushed to save her, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

The spring midday sun had melted snow on the upper slopes, which had already been loosened by high winds and new snow falls over the weekend. Miss Marchington was following two companions, who at first failed to notice she was missing.

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NHS urged to question provision of therapy

Psychotherapy 'no better than a chat with a friend'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PSYCHOTHERAPY is no more effective in helping people recover from depression or solve problems than an occasional chat with a doctor or advice from a friend, a review of recent research claims.

People who have dynamic psychotherapy, the conventional type in which patients explore past and present relationships with a therapist, are said to fare no better than those who have routine clinical care, but their treatment is more expensive and can carry greater risks.

No recent trial has shown it to be better than placebo in effecting recovery and its place in the NHS should be questioned, says the review, by an Australian psychiatrist, published in this month's *British Journal of Psychiatry*.

But British researchers said the effectiveness of psychotherapy, which derives from the work of Freud, Jung and their followers, had been established beyond reasonable doubt.

Dr Shirley Reynolds, clinical psychologist on the University of Sheffield's psychotherapy research programme, said: "I'm sure a lot of people do find going to a friend helpful, but the question is whether psychotherapy provides added value."

The general view is that most therapies are equally effective and better than placebo.

It depends on which of the research papers you choose.

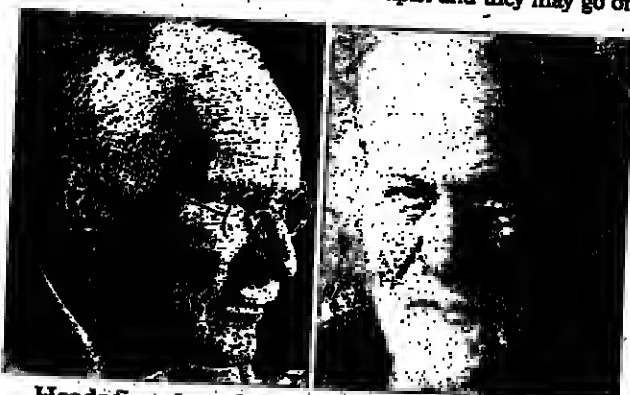
The review will fuel controversy over the use of psychotherapy, which at least 100,000 people are estimated to be receiving, many on the NHS.

Demand for the treatment is growing, but it can be costly because patients have regular one-to-one sessions with a therapist and they may go on

for months or years. Also, the close emotional involvement of therapist and patient can cause problems.

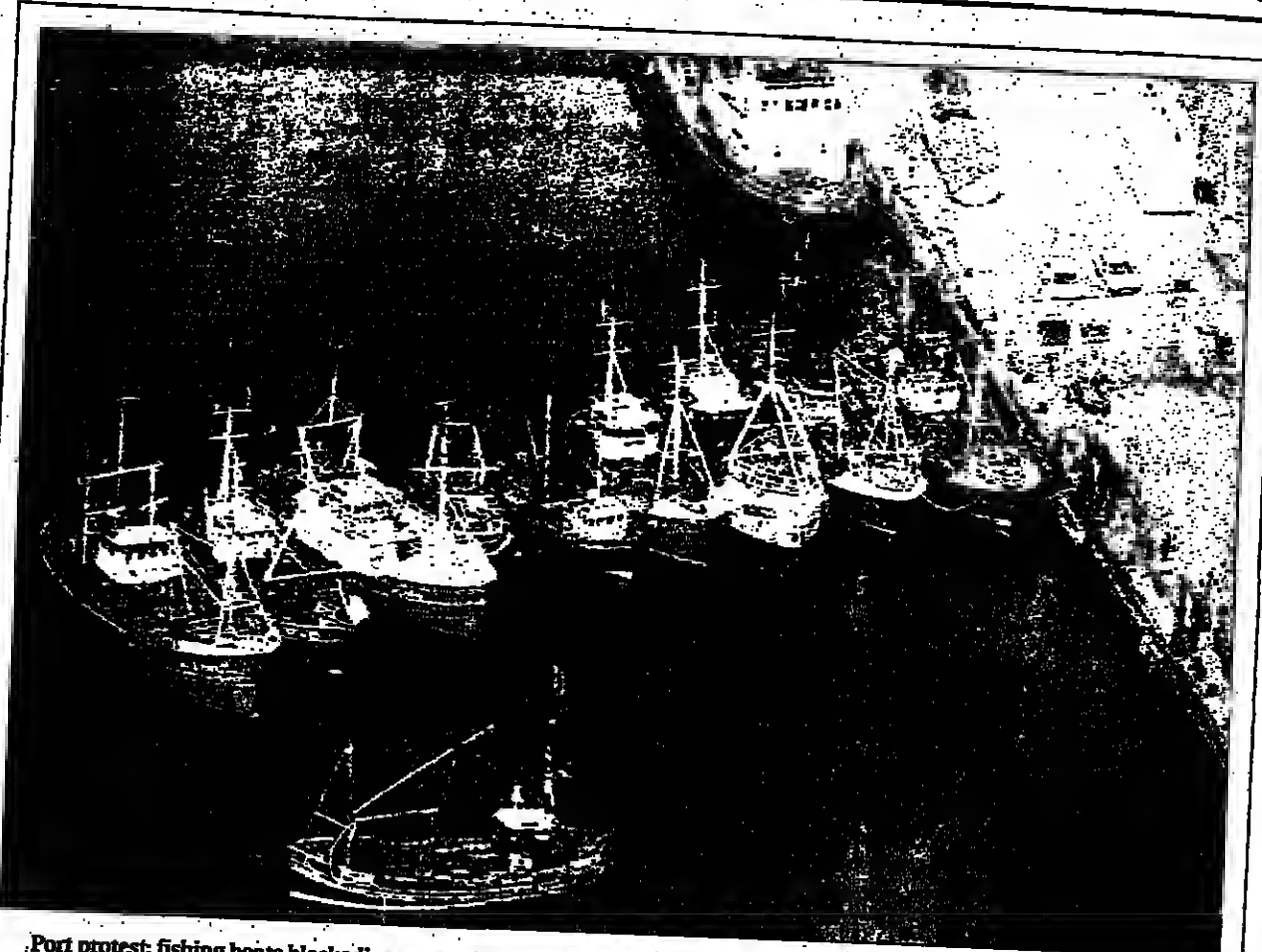
The review by Professor Gavin Andrews, an Australian psychiatrist who has spent ten years studying the effects of psychotherapy, concludes: "The lack of evidence for efficacy despite considerable research, the real possibility of harm, and the high cost all make long-term dynamic psychotherapy unlikely to be a preferred option of a health service."

He says the "universally bleak conclusion" of the research studies does not challenge Freud's theory of mental disorder, which has contributed much to understanding of the human mind. "However, the importance of his ideas does not mean that treatments derived from his work are automatically valid."



Heads first: Jung, left, and Freud founded therapy

Does it work? page 17
Letters, page 21



Port protest: fishing boats blockading the docks at Liverpool yesterday in protest at European Community rules limiting the time that they can spend at sea. Two Russian vessels bound for Liverpool and the Manchester ship

canal were delayed by a flotilla of 35 boats that blocked the shipping lanes despite a high court injunction ordering them not to impede traffic (Ronald Faux writes). Fishermen said that, in many cases, business plans

were based around their boats working all year. The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board said that much of the day's traffic had sailed on the early tide before the protesting boats appeared.

Woman dies after arson attack

A 71-year-old woman died in hospital three days after arsonists set fire to her home.

Iris Pink discovered the blaze in her flat at Clapham, south London, and suffered burns when she tried to escape. Vandalism is believed to have set fire to a seafarer's front door. Detectives are now treating the attack as murder.

Death leap

Sandra Salvatore, 24, jumped from the 28th floor of the London Hilton because he could not cope with becoming a head waiter. An inquest decided he killed himself.

Plaque charge

Victor Bethwaite, 35, accused of selling a £26,000 Roman plaque of Emperor Claudius found with a metal detector, was sent for trial at York Crown Court.

Dog man jailed

Philip Panter, 39, who starved his dog to death, was jailed for two years and banned from keeping animals for ten years by Leicester magistrates.

Beer boom

Sales of British beer in Italy have increased by 25 per cent since Paul Gascoigne started to play for a Rome football team. Newcastle Brown has become particularly popular.

Matched pairs

Shoe shop raiders in Doncaster stole stock worth £12,000 after spending an entire day pairing display samples with counterparts in storage.

Jaguar sues for XJ220 payments

By ROBIN YOUNG

HIGH Court writs have been issued against some of the people who ordered the £415,000 Jaguar XJ220 and are now refusing to pay a £50,000 instalment because the 212mph car's resale value has collapsed in the recession.

At least one customer is planning to challenge the car's manufacturer, JaguarSport of Bloxham, Oxfordshire, a joint venture between Jaguar and TWR, which has issued writs for non-payment.

Jaguar first offered 350 cars for sale in December 1989. Buyers were asked to put down a £50,000 deposit plus VAT and had to be willing to wait at least two years for delivery.

The offer was more than four times over-subscribed with 1,500 applicants keen to buy. Now, Jaguar says, "a couple of dozen" buyers have failed to make their second £50,000 payment.

David Boole, Jaguar's director of public affairs, said yesterday: "We tried hard to ensure the 350 were genuine enthusiasts who wanted the car but, unfortunately, there were a number of speculators involved."

"While the genuine enthusiasts have been happy to take delivery of the cars, the speculators, having seen the value diminish, are wriggling and trying to avoid delivery."

Mr Boole said all the buyers had entered into legally binding contracts which the company intended to enforce.

Crossman Block, the London solicitors who represent six XJ220 buyers, said yesterday the dispute should be dealt with by arbitration. So far about 100 of the cars have been delivered.

BBC plans epic hunt for the Yeti

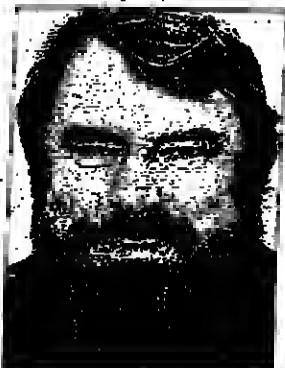
By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is studying plans for an epic televised expedition in search of the Yeti, the mythical beast also known as the Abominable Snowman.

Led by Brian Blessed, the actor, the proposed adventure series will take an eight-member camera crew on a 3,000-mile journey through the Himalayas and to the snowy wastes of Canada. Still in its early stages, the programme is based on the highly successful and lucrative series of BBC travelogues made by Michael Palin, the actor and explorer. Early estimates of the cost of the expedition, which programme-makers hope will be ready for departure by next February, are about £1 million.

Blessed, 57, who is planning to mount a separate expedition to Mount Everest in August, said yesterday the series could help answer a deep contemporary need for adventure and myth. "There is a need for a monster like this in our society. If we did not have them, we would have to create them," he said.

BBC Television Features in Bristol said the project



Blessed: modern need for myths

was still awaiting approval. "Nothing has been decided yet. It promises to be very exciting, if it ever goes ahead," a spokeswoman said. Programme-makers say they intend to research the series at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and plan to complete the trek with the aid of local trackers and Sherpa guides.

The Yeti features in many cultures' mythology as a huge humanoid, hairy beast. In Russia he is known as the Almas Giant, while in parts of Southeast Asia peasants refer to him as the Wildman of China. The Yeti's existence is based on reported sightings.

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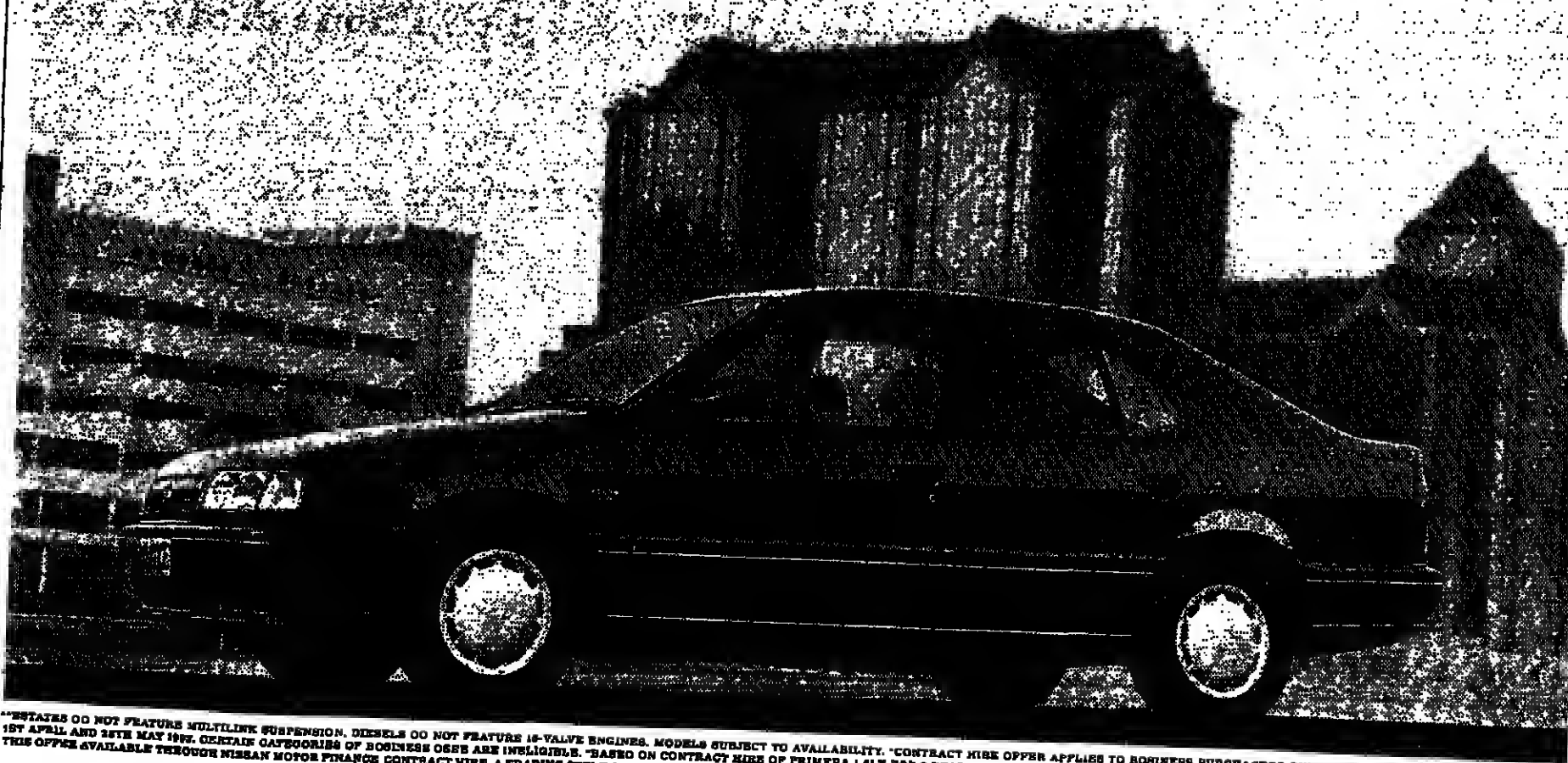
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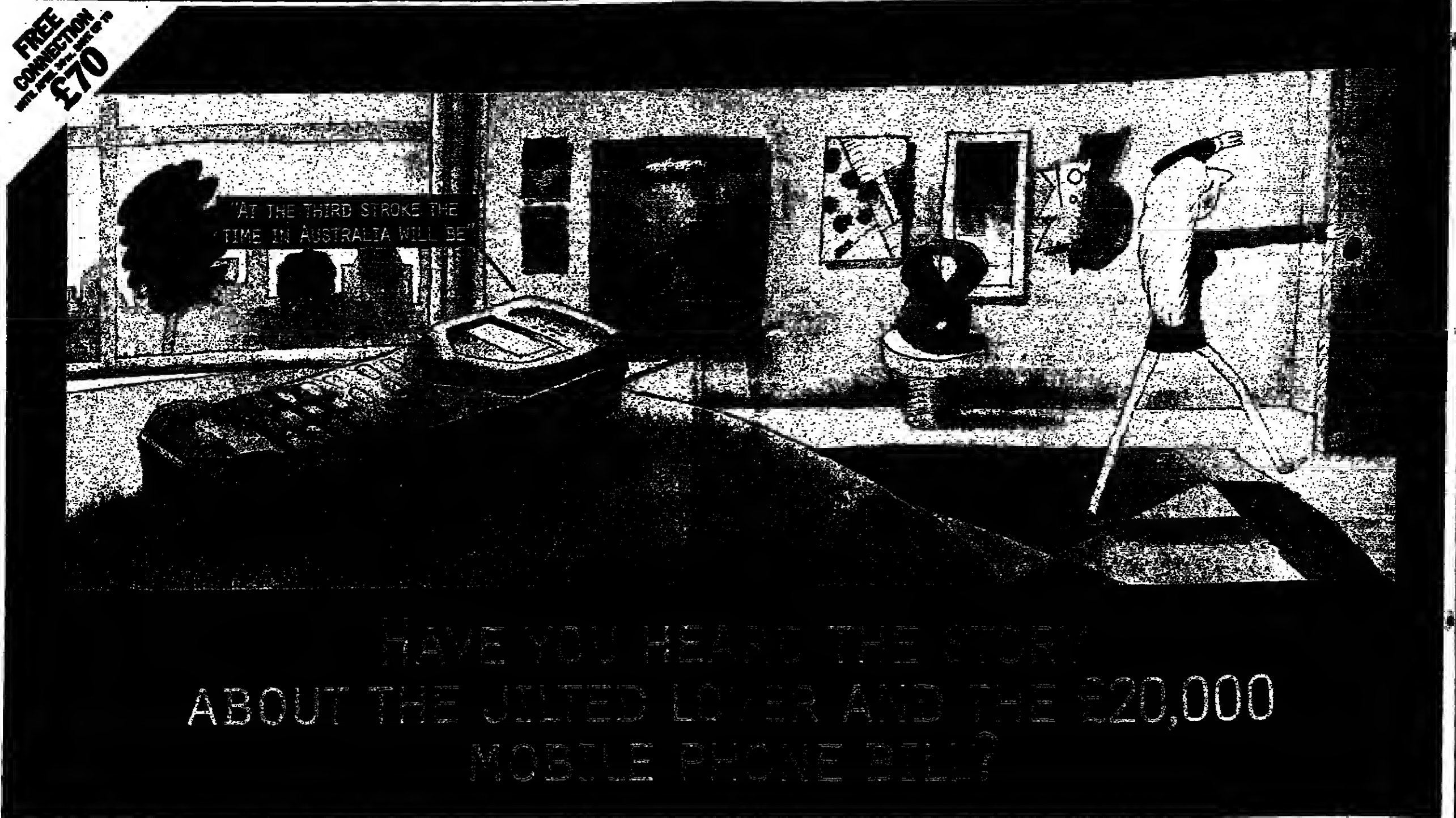
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مركز من الأصل

Anti-hunt lobby says report misses the point: that blood sports are unnecessarily cruel

National Trust set to sanction deer hunting on its land

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is expected to sanction the hunting of deer with hounds on its land after a specially commissioned report published yesterday said that the deer would suffer if hunting were banned. The findings will come as a relief to the trust's 52-member ruling council, which is opposed to a ban on deer hunting but has been under pressure to implement one since trust members voted narrowly in favour of such a move at their annual meeting in November, 1990.

The report says hunting plays a vital role in preserving the habitat on which the deer depend and in securing the goodwill and co-operation of landowners and farmers in managing deer numbers. Resolutions passed at annual meetings are not binding on the council, which played for

time by setting up a working party under Robert Savage, professor of geology at the University of Bristol, to examine the implications of a ban. The council will meet to consider the report on Tuesday and is expected to confirm its opposition to a ban, which would affect 17,000 acres of trust land regularly used by hunters, mostly in the Quantock Hills in Somerset and on Exmoor.

Jim Barrington, executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said the working party's report had "completely missed the point". He said: "It does not address the issue of the cruelty involved in hunting at all. We agree that deer need to be culled but, interestingly, the report concedes that hunting's role there is very limited."

The working party says that

a ban would have "adverse economic and social consequences for the rural communities on Exmoor and the Quantocks". Professor Savage said yesterday the role of the hunt in keeping down deer numbers and preventing them from damaging farm crops and woodland was significant but not vital. However, the hunt was of "critical importance" in ensuring the co-operation of landowners and farmers in the management of deer.

"Probably the hunt's most important contribution to the welfare of the deer is the preservation of the moorland and woodland in which they live," Professor Savage said. Without hunting, such land could be ploughed up for crops or grazed by sheep.

Separate research by Southampton University, com-



Swimming for its life: a photograph from the League Against Cruel Sports shows a stag chased by hounds from the Devon & Somerset hunt

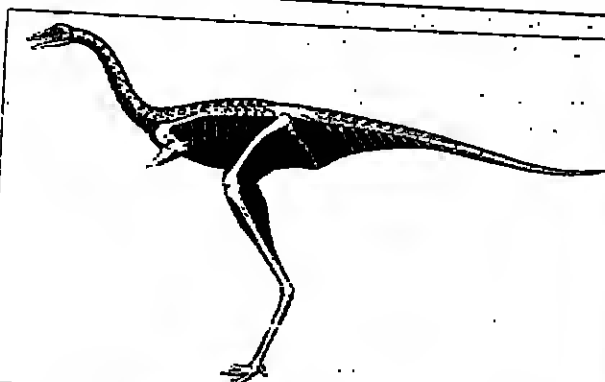
missioned by the working party, puts the population of red deer on Exmoor and the Quantocks at about 7,000, many more than previously thought. Their population is

thought to be growing by up to 10 per cent a year. About 1,000 deer are culled every year, of which hunting accounts for 130. Professional marksmen employed by bod-

ies such as the Forestry Commission account for about half the cullings, with poachers estimated to be responsible for a further 10 to 30 per cent, according to the research.

Professor Savage said that 1,400 deer probably needed to be culled annually. He said that cruelty was not part of the working party's remit, but there were many

different views on the subject. "Deer in the wild are accustomed to being chased and it is not clear what extra stress, if any, they suffer as a result of being hunted."



Tyrannosaurus rex: feathered, but not friendly

Dinosaurs seem to be birds of a feather

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MANY meat-eating dinosaurs, including the ferocious *Tyrannosaurus rex*, may have sported feathers during their juvenile or adult lives.

The intriguing possibility has been presented by a fossil found in the Gobi desert, where a joint American and Mongolian team has unearthed the skeleton of a turkey-sized animal.

The fossil, the most complete of its kind, is of a creature that shares features common to meat-eating, two-legged dinosaurs and modern birds. There are links between scales, the traditional coating for reptiles, and feathers.

Dr Angela Milner, a dinosaur expert at the Natural History Museum in London, who has seen details of the research, said: "Feathers may... have been widespread among bipedal dinosaurs as an insulating outer layer, as well as being universal in birds."

The new animal, which has been called *Mononychus olecranus* or "one claw", was found by palaeontologists from the American Museum of Natural History in New

York and the Mongolian Museum of Natural History in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. It lived 65 to 80 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous period, at the same time as *tyrannosaurus* and *albertosaurus*.

Anatomical studies indicate that the creature was probably flightless, like an ostrich.

Dr Mark Norell, an assistant curator at the American Museum, said yesterday that the find raised the possibility that flight may have evolved twice among prehistoric animals.

The first fossil recognised as a primitive bird was *Archaeopteryx*, found in 1861 in Bavaria. One theory is that birds evolved from *archaeopteryx*, which lived about 170 million years ago, but flight died out in the line that led to *mononychus*.

"The other theory is that flight arose twice: once in the line leading to *archaeopteryx* [where it died out] and once in the line leading to modern birds," said Dr Norell. This would make *mononychus* an offshoot of the line that led to today's birds.

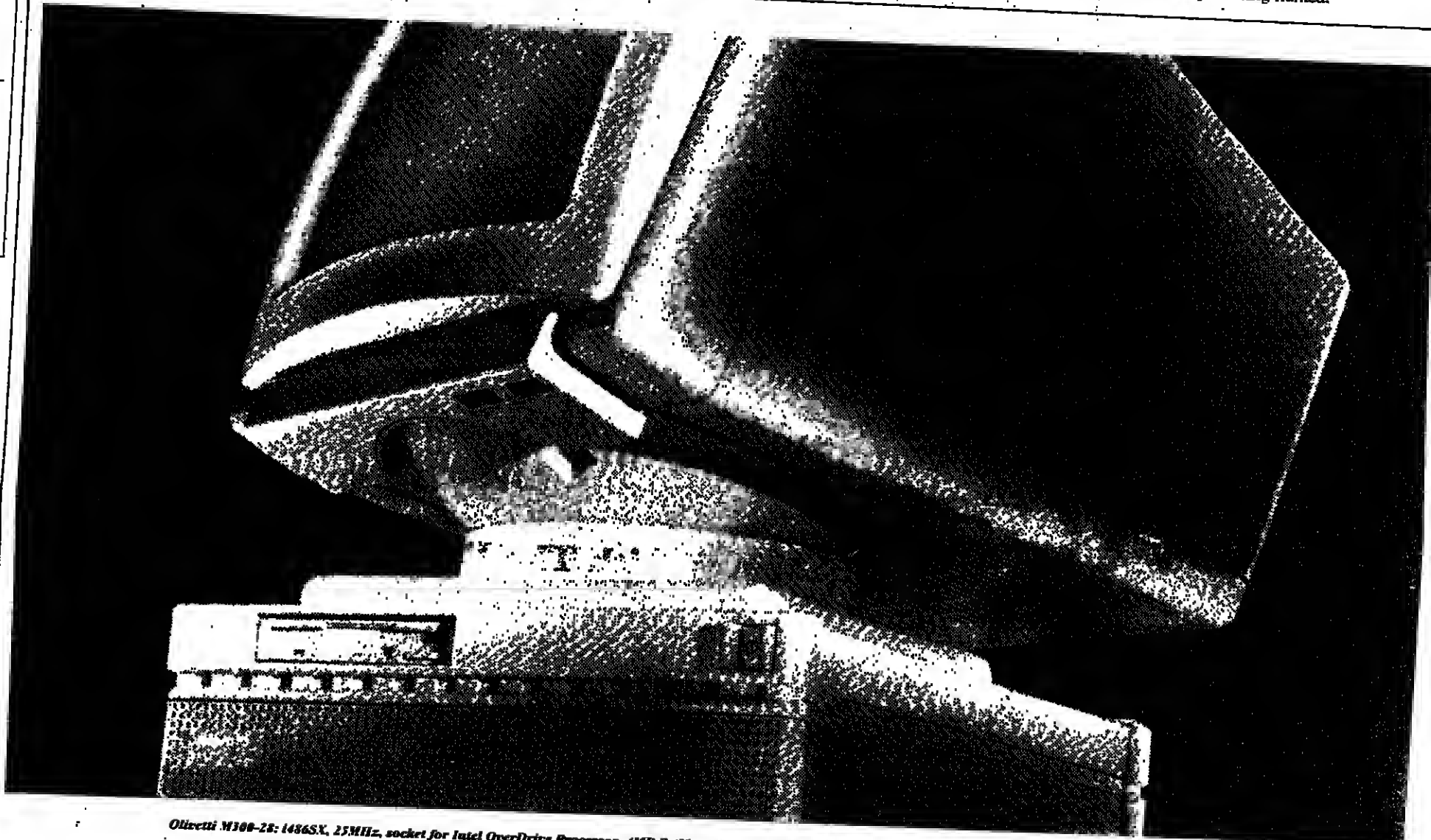
Cash in dung heaps

BLOBS of dried elephant dung coated with resin are being sold by Paignton zoo in Devon for £5.95. Visitors buying the droppings, which are mounted on wooden stands, have been told they are odour free and safe, but that they should be thrown away if they are damaged.

A dozen of the trophies were bought when they went on sale as an experi-

ment during the Easter weekend, one by an Australian woman who intended to give it to a former boy friend. The zoo plans to sell the 100 daily droppings from its elephants, Duchess and Gay.

Alan Smart, a zoo spokesman, said: "We are aiming to have a couple of thousand ready for the summer. Duchess and Gay are putting their backs into it."



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Washington gives Serbs ultimatum on peace plan

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration issued an ultimatum to Serbia yesterday, warning that America would press for the lifting of the UN arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims unless the Serbs very quickly signed on to the UN's Vance-Owen peace plan.

Reginald Bartholomew, Washington's special envoy to the peace negotiations, did not set a precise deadline, but said the Serbs had to sign "soon, soon. We are not talking of an extended track with what is happening on the ground."

Mr Bartholomew spoke before flying from Croatia to Belgrade for meetings with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, designed to sustain the West's diplomatic pressure on the Serbs to end their aggression in Bosnia.

Also in Belgrade for the same purpose was Vitali Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, who had met Mr Karadzic on Tuesday but with little apparent success. It seemed likely that Mr Milosevic would regard Mr Bartholomew's ultimatum as

another empty threat, because he knows the United States would find it extremely hard to obtain UN Security Council approval for arming the Bosnian Muslims. Indeed, some European officials suggested that Mr Bartholomew's statement was aimed more at a domestic audience which has seen President Clinton retreat from campaign promises of robust action to end the bloodshed.

Unless Boris Yeltsin emerges the clear victor in Russia's April 25 referendum, he may be too weak to oppose hardline nationalist opponents who view the Serbs as traditional allies. Britain and France are also firmly opposed to lifting the embargo, arguing that to do so would end both the humanitarian relief efforts and any chance of a peaceful resolution.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, will have lengthy discussions with Les Aspin, his American counterpart, in Washington next week, but sources said yesterday

that the only circumstance under which Britain might conceivably review its opposition would be if the Vance-Owen peace plan was transparently dead. If, for example, Mr Yeltsin had lost power in Russia or the Serbs took Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia's last big Muslim enclave, "we would clearly be faced with some very difficult choices".

Though emotionally inclined towards intervention himself, President Clinton must also weigh conflicting advice from his own top advisers. The joint chiefs of staff are reportedly telling him that neither arming the Muslims nor bombing Serbian military positions would have a decisive impact on the conflict. Mr Aspin is said to be more favourably disposed to punitive air strikes, but has yet to press the case. State Department officials are concerned about allied opposition to direct or indirect military intervention.

Some influential figures in the White House, the National Security Council and elsewhere believe that Ameri-

ca not only has a compelling moral obligation to stop the carnage but an overwhelming strategic interest in demonstrating that aggression is not an acceptable means of resolving ethnic feuds. Their hand was bolstered yesterday by Lady Thatcher's forceful advocacy on American television of arming the Muslims and bombing Serb military targets.

Copenhagen: Denmark's foreign minister yesterday rejected an accusation by Lady Thatcher that the European Community had failed in its efforts to end the Yugoslav conflict. "I reject that," Niels Helveg Petersen said in an interview with the BBC.

Mr Petersen, whose country is current EC president, said: "The baroness should realise that Yugoslavia is not the Falkland Islands."

Mr Petersen said the EC had played a constructive role in the war by sponsoring the Vance-Owen peace plan, "which is the only realistic plan on the table". (Reuters)

Peter Stothard, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Bosnia concern: Lady Chalker said the Serbs might still agree to the peace plan

Chalker warning on arms

BARONESS Chalker, the minister for overseas development, said yesterday that in attacking Western policy on Bosnia and calling for the Muslims to be armed and for possible air strikes against the Serbs, Baroness Thatcher had "struck a chord but without realising the consequences".

Lady Chalker added: "You don't achieve an end to slaughter by adding arms to an already well-armed area." She said it was also necessary not to upset attempts to persuade the Serbs to agree to the peace plan drawn up by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. "We still have a chance to get the Russians to persuade the Serbs to sign up to the plan."

Officials said Britain was concentrating on the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia and Western efforts to secure UN approval for tougher sanctions on Serbia. The humanitarian operation in Bosnia could be ended by the intervention urged by Lady Thatcher, an official said, and factions in Russia could be encouraged to give military help to the Serbs.

Thatcher outburst finds little support among Tory right

Margaret Thatcher has now moved outside the world of conventional politics. She has become like Henry Kissinger or Richard Nixon in America, who can command the headlines because of their names, but who have only an indirect influence on day-to-day policymaking.

Her audience is public, even international, opinion. Her furious criticisms of European policy on the Bosnian conflict were initially expressed on British and American television — though yesterday she made a rare intervention during exchanges in the House of Lords. Her onslaught has found few supporters in the Commons. Malcolm Rifkind and Douglas Hogg easily answered her calls to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims and to launch air attacks on the Serbs.

The Thatcher brigade of those proclaiming outrage, if not agreeing with her detailed proposals, mainly consisted of mavericks such as Dale Campbell-Savours, Frank Field, Tony Banks, Winston Churchill and Patrick Cormack. The Tory right were far from belittling and members of the defence establishment like Sir Nicholas Bonsor and Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith were cautious over any move which might endanger British troops.

One former cabinet colleague said that, when prime minister, she might initially have made such an outburst in private, but she would have eventually been talked round by Geoffrey Howe or Douglas Hurd.

Ministers were careful yesterday not to criticise Baroness Thatcher personally. Mr Rifkind did not repeat his dismissive reference to "emotional nonsense" of Tuesday evening. Indeed, he scarcely mentioned her at all.

The government is nonetheless aware that Lady Thatcher has struck a chord in expressing outrage over the horrors

RIDDEL ON POLITICS

of Bosnia. Even if they do not agree with her detailed proposals, as most do not, many MPs are worried about what is happening.

The government's approach has all the inherent strengths and weaknesses of being reasonable in face of unreasonable, barbarous behaviour. Mr Rifkind's argument, and his rebuttal of Lady Thatcher's proposals, sounded reasonable at each stage — the dangers of even bloodless fighting and a collapse of the international consensus if the Muslims are armed and the Serbs attacked; the absence of public support for operations risking British lives; and the fragile nature of Russian co-operation in the face of domestic pressures on Boris Yeltsin to back the Serbs.

In the view of ministers, avoiding actions which might weaken Mr Yeltsin ahead of the Russian referendum later this month should take priority, even if this means a two-week delay in agreeing a security council resolution tightening sanctions on Serbia.

Ministers have been forced to be more explicit about the constraints they face. Mr Rifkind admitted yesterday: "It may not be the most heroic policy. It may not resolve the problems overall in Bosnia, but to say that because we cannot achieve all we would like we must resign ourselves to doing nothing at all is a counsel of despair."

Lady Thatcher's interventions, whatever their flaws of diagnosis and prognosis, have forced the Bosnian issue to the centre of the political debate. Ministers cannot escape the failure of the current policies to limit the killing in Bosnia.

PETER RIDDELL

EC mediator echoes call to use air power

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LORD Owen, who yesterday said Baroness Thatcher's calls for military pressure on the Bosnian Serbs were emotional and simplistic, has, however, again backed the use of air power to force the Serbs to accept a peace settlement.

In the US journal *Foreign Affairs*, the European Community mediator said he disagreed with the defence ministry that such air raids would require military intervention on the ground. "What we all need now is a peace package that can be agreed to by the security council even if we only get two of the three parties to sign up," Lord Owen said.

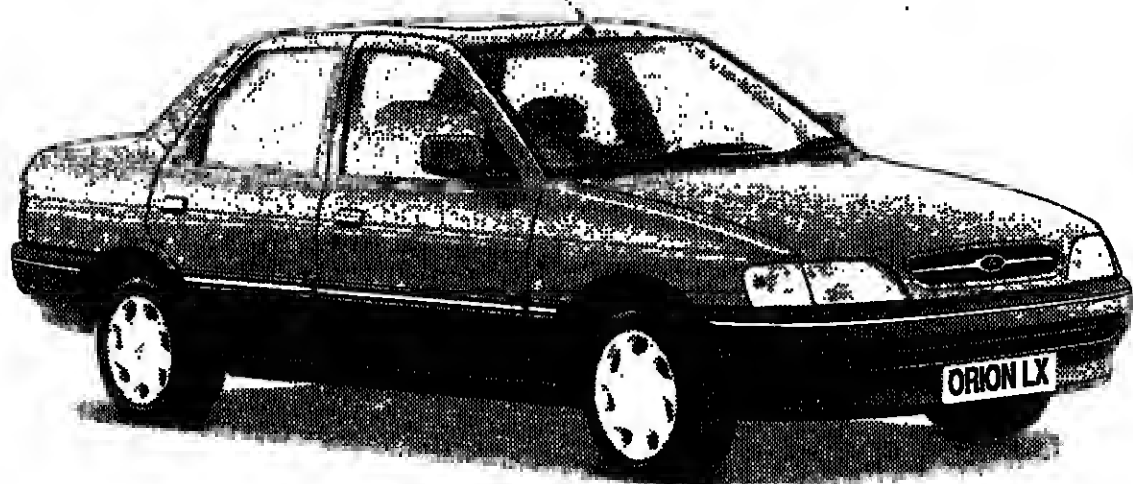
"We can increase sanctions and perhaps then tilt that balance of force by the use of air power to pressure the other party, in this case the Bosnian Serbs, to sign up. It is best done by splitting the Serbs, with Belgrade pressuring the Bosnian Serbs."

Lord Owen advocated the use of air power to cut the Bosnian Serbs' supply lines last July, before he was appointed EC mediator. He

later moderated his line for fear of alienating the Serbs. But now the Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-led Bosnian government have signed the peace plan he drew up with his UN counterpart, Cyrus Vance. Lord Owen seems more willing to talk tough.

Asked to amplify his views yesterday, Lord Owen demurred, saying only that his position was "very different from what Mrs Thatcher is saying". On BBC radio, he had emphasised that he opposed Lady Thatcher's suggestion that the Muslims be exempted from the UN arms embargo, saying such a step would encourage Russia to arm the Serbs. "Sometimes Lady Thatcher makes it appear very simple," he said. "It's not, unfortunately." But Lady Thatcher also proposed that the international community threaten air power against the Bosnian Serbs if they did not accept a peace plan by a deadline — an idea not unlike Lord Owen's.

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Chalker warning on arms

BARONESS Chalker, the minister for overseas development, said yesterday that in attacking Western policy on Bosnia and calling for the Muslims to be armed, she was not up to the task of persuading the Serbs to accept the peace plan drawn by Cyrus Vance and Owen. "We still have a chance to get the Russians to persuade the Serbs to accept the plan," she said.

Officials said British concentration on the eastern part of the conflict in Bosnia and Western support for a secure UN approach to the humanitarian operation in Bosnia could be criticised by interventionists. Lady Chalker added that she did not achieve an end to the slaughter by adding arms to the already well-armed Serbs. She said it was also necessary not to upset attempts to persuade the Serbs to accept the peace plan drawn by Cyrus Vance and Owen. "We still have a chance to get the Russians to persuade the Serbs to accept the plan," she said.

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RIDDELL ON POLITICS

of Bosnia. Even if we agree with the proposals, as most do, MPs are worried that it is happening.

The government has all the influence and resources available in the world. Mr. Riddell said that the government's approach to Bosnia was a failure. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the peace plan drawn by Cyrus Vance and Owen. He said that the government had failed to get the Russians to persuade the Serbs to accept the plan. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan.

In the case of the Serbs, the government has failed to get them to accept the peace plan drawn by Cyrus Vance and Owen. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan. He said that the government had failed to get the Serbs to accept the plan.

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Plea for weapons 'a Muslim strategy to draw in Western troops'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMS

Speak to a Muslim commander in Turbe, Travnik or Srebrenica and his message will be the same: "Give us weapons and we will fight our own war against the Serbs." This has been the Muslim cry ever since the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina began more than a year ago.

The Muslims have always had to fight the Bosnian Serbs at a huge disadvantage. Armed with Kalashnikovs, limited stocks of ammunition, second world war anti-aircraft guns, mortars and a handful of ancient artillery pieces, they have been relatively defenceless against the big guns that surround their surviving enclaves. Their Bosnian Croat "allies" have more weapons but have made no moves to share them. In some Muslim defence lines, Kalashnikovs are so scarce that soldiers have to exchange them between shifts.

The appeal to arm the Muslims was first taken up by Baroness Thatcher last year but her words failed to have the same impact as yesterday's emotional denunciation of Western policy. It has always been an option, though opposed by most Western governments. The new American administration is an exception, but even President Clinton has not yet adopted the proposal as policy.

There would be huge obstacles. First and foremost, it is difficult to imagine the Russians agreeing to support a United Nations Security Council move to lift the arms embargo in favour of the Muslims. A Russian veto because of their ties with Serbia would scupper the proposal. However, if a partial lifting of

the ban was agreed — with Russia abstaining — the West would have to find ways of moving artillery into Muslim enclaves. Light guns, with a 105mm calibre, could be slung under helicopters.

Heavier guns would require low loaders. Either way, the West would have to commit personnel as well as equipment, both for training the Muslims and for keeping the ammunition supplies flowing. Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute, said that this was the strategy behind the Muslims' appeal to the West to supply arms.

"They ask for arms in the full knowledge that this is the one way to draw Western forces in."

To provide the Muslims with the arms they need to counter the Serbs, which would include tanks as well as artillery, shiploads of equipment would have to enter the Adriatic. Smaller arms could be flown in to Tuzla, in northeastern Bosnia. However, the risks would be high. Tuzla has been shelled on many occasions by Serb artillery. Even before Western arms arrived, the Serbs would undoubtedly preempt any such intervention by increasing their assault on the remaining Muslim enclaves in

eastern Bosnia: Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde. The result would be even greater slaughter.

The logistic challenge alone makes the proposal impractical. So why are the Americans — and Lady Thatcher — considering the option? A senior American diplomat explained that the US had a different perception of the war. "In Europe, the feeling is that this is a civil war but in the US there is a greater sense that it is a war of aggression and, for the Muslims, it's not a fair fight because they don't have the weapons."

The diplomat said that, unless the Muslims had the means to

defend themselves and to recover territory, the Serbs "will not negotiate sensibly". He admitted, however, that there were sound arguments against lifting the arms embargo. Arming the Muslims could lead to a "weapons free-for-all", with countries such as Iran joining in: a move that would not be welcomed in Washington.

Dr Eyal said: "Arming the Muslims might save the conscience of the West but it would achieve nothing except more slaughter. Would it expiate the West's guilty conscience to see Serbian children as well as Muslim children being killed?"

Serbs tighten noose around town after 56 die in shelling

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN BELGRADE

THE Serbs were reported to be tightening their noose around the besieged eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica yesterday as Russian and American envoys made apparently futile attempts to persuade them to sign the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Vitali Churkin and Reginald Bartholomew both met Serb leaders in Belgrade yesterday.

In Bosnia the two-week ceasefire seemed to have collapsed. Fighting was reported not just around Srebrenica but elsewhere, including Turbe, Olovo, Gradacac and Stolac. Louis Gentile, a worker with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, yesterday gave a graphic account of the scenes in Srebrenica when it was subjected to a savage Serb bombardment on Monday. Fifty

Tales of bloodshed in Srebrenica overshadow the seemingly futile efforts of American and Russian peace envoys

six people died in the attack, including 15 children. "People were throwing bodies into oxcafts or anything that would move, throwing bodies into wheelbarrows. I say bodies because some of the people were alive and some were not," Mr Gentile said.

"Some were not really looking like people anymore. There were parts of bodies. There were people whose intestines were falling out, people whose brains were coming out of their eyes."

Mr Gentile said the shelling was extremely precise. "It just systematically went down the middle of the town... clearly intended to wound as many civilians as possible." He said

children had died when shells hit the playground where they were having a game of football. "One was a kid who must have been between five and seven and had been decapitated. There was just no head left on his body."

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, suggested yesterday that Srebrenica's Muslim defenders had staged the attack themselves in order to provoke foreign outrage and eventual participation in the war. Bosnian Serb sources say 43 Serb soldiers have been killed in the past two days.

In Belgrade Mr Churkin held a series of talks with Serb and Bosnian Serb leaders but without apparent success. Hamstrung by the need to placate President Yeltsin's conservative opponents in Russia, he is a toothless envoy, much to the delight of Serb leaders. "We welcome Russian engagement," Mr Karadzic said. "Mr Churkin is making a great effort... in seeking a compromise."

Although the predicament of Mr Yeltsin has caused a stay of execution in the UN over extending sanctions, Serb commentators have recently toned down their vitriolic denunciations of the Russian president. His difficulties suit them because he cannot be seen to be too much in league with the West and must therefore try to protect the Serbs. On the other hand, Mr Yeltsin cannot be overly reviled in Belgrade to the extent that he decides to support tougher sanctions or the lifting of the arms embargo on the Bosnian government.

While he was in Belgrade, Mr Churkin saw opposition leaders including Vuk Draskovic. "Churkin has nothing to offer, no new proposals and is just listening to what Karadzic has to say."

There was confusion yesterday in Vicenza, Italy, where the Nato no-fly-zone patrols over Bosnia are co-ordinated. A spokesman said a Dutch pilot had spotted a white single-engine plane over southeastern Bosnia on Tuesday. The spokesman later denied the report, saying "It has been ascertained that there was no visual observation by the F16 pilot."



Innocent victim: a Bosnian Muslim soldier carries the coffin of a Srebrenica baby who was buried yesterday

British team to counsel Muslim women

By ALICE THOMSON

A TEAM of British health experts is to be sent to Bosnia to counsel Muslim women whose lives have been torn apart by rape and the violence of war.

The emergency team of psychologists and social workers will fly into central Bosnia within the next few weeks to help thousands of Muslim refugees try to come to terms with the agony of seeing their family lives smashed into fragments.

The charity Marie Stopes International has been asked to go to Bosnia following a European Community investigation headed by Dame Anne Warburton, which concluded that thousands of the women had been raped. Estimates vary from between 10,000 to as many as 60,000.

So far emergency aid has concentrated on providing medical services to the

VICTIMS

800,000 refugees living in central Bosnia. But yesterday Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister, announced a £2.5 million programme for Bosnian women which will be funded by the EC humanitarian office, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Britain, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

In London, Marie Stopes International said it was impressed with the size of the aid package. The 20-year-old charity runs women's health care programmes in 35 countries, dealing with family planning, but it is their expertise in abortion counselling and physical abuse that will be needed in Bosnia. Twelve staff from its headquarters will be flown to Bosnia and 40 staff

will be recruited locally. Marie Stopes' communications coordinator, Helen Mitchell, said yesterday: "We decided that we should focus first on the central Bosnian towns of Tuzla, Zenica, Kiseljak and Jablanica."

Although The International Committee of the Red Cross and Bosnian and Croatian women's groups have been compiling evidence over nine months, it is impossible to put an estimate on the number of women who have been raped and it is easy to become cynical when journalists are asked to join long queues repeatedly to interview the same nine or ten rape victims.

But the charity says its concern is not to verify the number of rape victims. Instead, it hopes to try to give Muslim women back their self-respect. "Most of them are functioning in survival mode.

It sounds twice to say we will be giving coffee mornings, but that will be part of our plans," Ms Mitchell said.

"We will set up self-help groups and give medical advice. But we are not going to ask rape victims to put up their hands. We want to do this by word of mouth."

"Following the EC commission report we will also try to educate Muslim society to accept back their rape victims, but in a war zone it will be impossible to do any serious psychotherapy."

Some of the Bosnian women's groups are already sceptical. Indijana Harper, a spokeswoman for Bosnian Women in London, said: "If the international community does not intervene properly, these women who are trying to counsel will soon be captured again, and either raped or slaughtered."

Thatcher takes her crusade to America

Continued from page 1
has flipped and gone completely mad," Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, said. "My advice to the prime minister is that if he wants foreign policy advice from any of his predecessors, he had better listen to Lord Home and Lord Callaghan rather than this former Finchley fishwife."

Winston Churchill, MP for Devonport, praised the intervention, however. "For somebody who is not in government, there is nobody who speaks with greater force or greater authority." In the Commons, he said that it was unprecedented for the UN to impose an embargo on victims of military aggression. It was an inevitable consequence of present policy that ethnic cleansing and genocide would continue because nothing was being done by the international community to stop it.

Lady Thatcher even found support on the Labour benches. Dale Campbell-Savours backed military intervention, saying: "This cancer growing at the very heart of Europe has got to be stopped now before it spreads even further." Tony Banks added: "Margaret Thatcher at least articulated the deep anger and frustration that many people in this country feel about the inability of EC powers to do something about the situation in Bosnia." He called for an ultimatum to the Belgrade to control the Bosnian Serbs or face direct UN attacks inside Serbia.

As he was speaking, American and Russian envoys were both in Belgrade trying to force the Serbs to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, although they said it was a coincidence that they were both there at the same time. The UN Security Council has put off a vote on new sanctions against Serbia for a fortnight at Russia's request, and the Russian envoy Vitali Churkin expressed cautious optimism that a deal could be reached by then. "I think we should achieve a solution as soon as possible," he said.

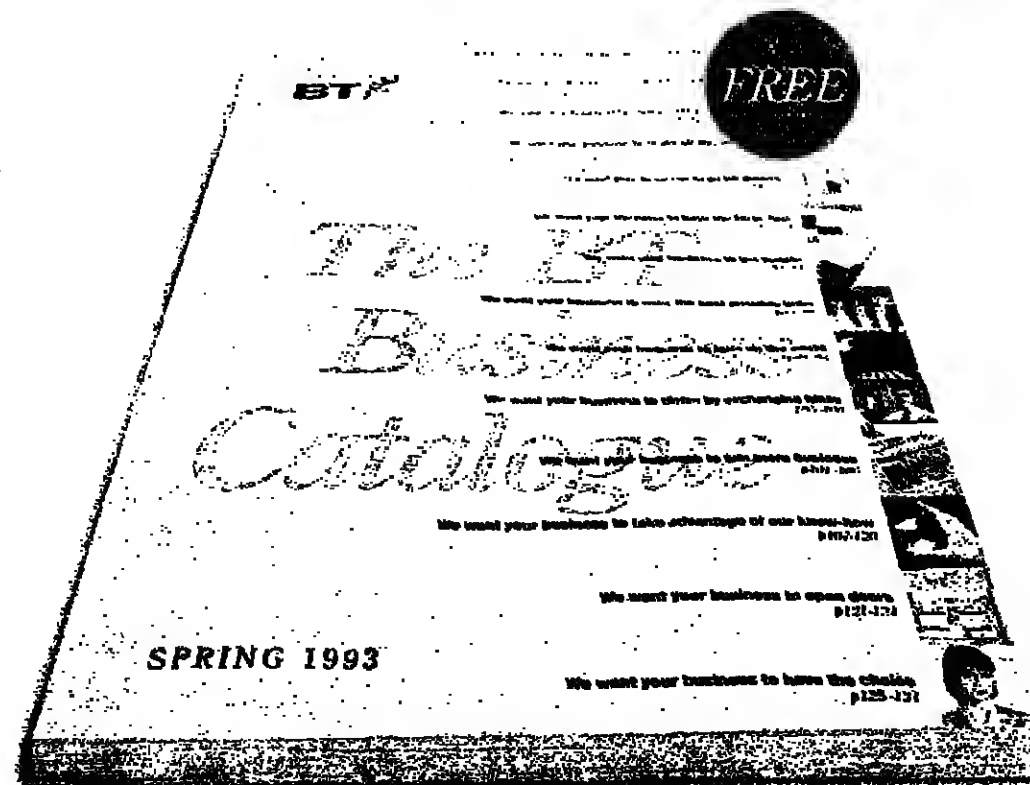
Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, emerged from his meeting with Mr Bartholomew to announce that he was calling the Muslims and Croats for face-to-face talks. "There is no settlement without direct talks," he said. "We should sit down and talk face-to-face to exchange some territories to get a quick solution." The Muslims and Croats have accepted the Bosnian map as drawn by Lord Owen and Mr Vance. Only the Serbs have rejected it.

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By-election date set to stretch Lib Dems

By Philip Wester, Chief Political Correspondent

PADDY Ashdown yesterday launched the Liberal Democrat campaign for the county council elections as the government confirmed that the Newbury by-election, in which his party is expected to mount a close challenge to the Conservatives, will be held on the same day, May 6.

Ministers openly admitted that one of the motives behind staging the elections on the same day would be to try to stretch Liberal Democrat resources to the limit.

The government's majority in the seat made vacant by the death of Judith Chaplin is 12,357 and most Tory MPs believe it could be vulnerable. The Liberal Democrats control the district council and need a 9.3 per cent swing to overturn the Conservatives in the sort of success they have had in the last two parliaments. Mr Ashdown said: "The Newbury by-election is one in which we are the clear challengers. It's a very important moment for the country. Newbury can speak for Britain."

Labour intensified its campaign for the local elections with a claim that the council tax would be on average £14 lower in Labour areas.

Mr Ashdown attacked the "paralysis" in Mr Major's government and unveiled his party's manifesto. He said: "In a moment of national gloom, these local elections can give

Britain new hope. They offer the opportunity to vote for Liberal Democrat action to replace Conservative inaction; the opportunity to support local action, to improve on national inaction. On issue after issue, Mr Major's government seems paralysed by inactivity and lack of ideas."

Liberal Democrats hold or share power in more than 130 councils.

The manifesto promises to introduce local income tax and proportional representation for council elections. It also includes ideas for compensation for customers when councils fail to provide adequate levels of public service and encouraging schools to develop an area of expertise. The party would also consider the case for exempting some small businesses from the uniform business rate on grounds of hardship.

The Liberals will be boosted in the Berkshire county council election by the decision of two Labour candidates to withdraw to avoid splitting the anti-Conservative vote in two wards. The move has angered the Labour leadership, which has called for a report from regional officers in the area. The Liberal Democrat leadership denies that it amounts to a formal pact.

Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said: "We would have preferred that voters in those areas, as in

every area, had Labour candidates."

The Labour leadership claimed that while Labour councils had been trying to protect jobs the government had washed its hands of the economy. Labour-controlled authorities were able to make a difference for businesses in their area. Harriet Harman, the shadow Treasury chief secretary, said: "What Labour councils have been doing, while the government have been washing their hands of the economy, is trying to protect businesses and jobs in their area." A party survey of county councils' economic policies showed that unemployment rose faster in Tory-controlled areas than in those covered by Labour councils, she said.

The Newbury poll will end a record gap of one year and 180 days between Westminster by-elections, the longest gap at least since the war and possibly since the end of the 17th century, when Parliament first sat every year.

Prospective candidates named for the by-election so far: Julian Davidson (C), David Rendel (Lib Dem), Steve Billcliffe (Lab), Jim Wallis (Green), Dr Alan Sked (Anti-Federalist).

General election: Mrs J. Chaplin (C) 37,135; David Rendel (Lib Dem) 24,778; Richard Hall (Lab) 3,962; Jim Wallis (Green) 530.



A voice for the people: Sir Philip Goodhart, the former Conservative minister, launching a new pamphlet yesterday in support of the campaign for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty. The booklet, *Let the People Speak*, says it is clear that so far the Maastricht debate has produced frustration and confusion (Robert Morgan writes). It is equally clear, it says, that important constitutional changes should not be forced through Parliament.

Sir Philip cites the 1975 referendum on the Common Market, and those held in Scotland and Wales on devolution, as good precedents, and adds that "historians of the future will surely be amazed if we do not use this ultimate constitutional safeguard for settling our place in the new Europe."

The Maastricht Referendum Campaign, which is behind the pamphlet and whose patrons include Baroness Thatcher, is now gathering signatures for its petition at the rate of 30,000 a day. The campaigners had hoped to publish their petition before MPs debate the issue, probably next week. But now they appear to be resigned to losing the vote in the Commons, where both main parties are against holding a referendum, and are pinning their hopes on the House of Lords.

Mr Morris has ruled out a vote on a Labour amendment which seeks to end the British opt-out, but he has agreed that MPs can vote on another Opposition new clause.

This says that the government must make time for a separate vote on the social chapter after the bill has been passed by Parliament. Labour MPs are to meet Mr Morris later today before the debate on the bill resumes, to press him to change his mind on denying them a vote on their opt-out amendment.

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Yeltsin lays down strict terms for resigning

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said yesterday that he was prepared to step down if voters in next week's referendum registered a no-confidence vote in him — but only if they simultaneously came out against early elections to parliament.

Addressing a news conference in the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin said that he would proclaim victory if he secures the votes of more than 50 per cent of the turnout on April 25 and not, as parliament has demanded, 50 per cent of the entire electorate. He said that he favoured elections in the autumn to break the deadlock between the executive and the legislature.

In cheerful mood after an encouraging day's campaigning on Tuesday in the Kuzbass mining region of Siberia, Mr Yeltsin told voters to look carefully at the "tricky" referendum formula drawn up by the conservative legislature and drove home his new catchphrase "four times yes".

Mr Yeltsin also expressed his dissatisfaction with Aleksandr Rutskoi, his conservative vice-president. "Rutskoi is categorically not in agreement with reform. How can a vice-president work if he is not in agreement with the president? It is time that he defined his position," Mr Rutskoi has become one of the government's harshest critics. He refused to back the declaration of emergency rule last month and said Russia "survived only on humanitarian aid".

The Yeltsin camp has taken on board the fact that voters, particularly in outlying rural areas, are confused about the referendum questions and is applying direct techniques to woo the "right" result. These are at times eerily reminiscent of the Marxist propaganda

practised in the provinces after the October Revolution.

"With the answer 'yes' throughout we will continue with economic reforms, learn something from our mistakes and stop them happening again," Mr Yeltsin said, adding that the alternative to his rule was to leave power in the hands of Congress, which he described as "a bastion of former communist reaction".

The four questions posed on the ballot paper are: Do you have confidence in the president? Do you approve of the government's social and economic policy since 1992? Do you favour early elections to the presidency? Do you favour early elections to Congress?

The formula was imposed by Congress to place the burden of strain on Mr Yeltsin and his government, making them defend their record after a difficult winter. It turned down the president's demand to have a direct vote of confidence in the legislature included and omitted to mention that it had itself, however grudgingly, approved the government's policies at its sessions.

The Russian leader's statement — "let's say the people vote 'no' to the first question and 'no' to the fourth question, then the president will resign" — portrays him as willing to accept the people's verdict. But its subtle implication is that he will resign only in the unlikely case that the vote goes simultaneously against him and early elections to parliament.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, last night responded by declaring that Mr Yeltsin was transforming his government into a "dictatorial regime".

Letters, page 21



Memory lane: a Russian woman carrying a goat past an old Communist party poster on Lenin street in Belgorod. Photograph: CHRIS HARRIS

Town of hope casts off past inhibitions

Michael Birnyon, continuing his train ride in Russia, discovers that reform can mean sex shops and striptease. Second stop: BELGOROD



nothing compared with those of Yuri Seliverstov, the 36-year-old mayor. "We have only one-twelfth of last year's budget. I have no fixed civic budget any more. We live from month to month. I cannot afford improvements or to pay salaries."

Belgorod, a town of 300,000, is still reasonably well off, thanks to the rich farming around. But signs of wear and tear are everywhere. The conservative regional administration is a frustrating brake on the young mayor, blocking his money, his reforms, and land privatisation.

As in the provinces of Dostoyevsky's day, the leaders and thinkers, politicians and businessmen of the town know each other well. The mayor, the banker and the pet-shop owner regularly meet and eat together at the Good Friday. Unlike the Communist mafia of the past, they are afraid neither of enterprise nor of speaking out. What they fear is that this could so easily and quickly be snuffed out. Then the clothes would be back on the restaurant's dancers, the lid on provincial society.



MORE than a thousand roubles lay on the floor, tossed in the air as the striptease began. A few years ago they would have bought a banquet for all the nouveaux riches in the restaurant; now they lay like confetti, worth a few pence, and giving a post-communist sense of abandon to the Good Friday club, Belgorod's newest and smartest nightclub.

Iyubov Rudneva, determined to have fun as she danced, knew the value of the cash underfoot and of the thriving private restaurant: her bank lent money — at interest rates of up to 160 per cent — to finance the club opening last month. "The owner must be a billionaire by now," she confided as the rock music blared out.

A vivacious and shrewd woman in her forties, she is a key figure in this quiet southern Russian town's attempt to shake off the old Communist hierarchy and translate privatisation into local prosperity. Her bank — the State Savings Bank — has moved into spacious purpose-built headquarters, complete with American computers, a conference centre for businessmen, checking counters, consultation rooms and the most up-to-date dealing indexes for foreign currency transactions.

All depends now on politics. Unless President Yeltsin wins a decisive mandate on April 25, the programme of stuttering privatisation may peter out, overwhelmed by inflation and new state controls.

Aleksandr Sladkov, head of Ovinex, a local construction firm, is like Belgorod, poised to take off. A former lecturer in building materials, he has perfected something which even the ancient Israelites could not achieve — a brick made entirely of sand. "Just think of the export potential or the licensing income in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. No pollution, no mess, all you need is electricity." Already the bricks, whose construc-

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Legal wrangling hampers start of high treason case against alleged anti-Gorbachev plotters

Moscow coup trial defendants refuse to recognise court

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE trial of 12 leading Soviet Communists accused of plotting the coup against Mikhail Gorbachev got off to a ragged start yesterday, with defence lawyers objecting to the judges and claiming that Russia's supreme court is not entitled to hear the case. Four of the key defendants also claimed that they would refuse to co-operate with the court unless the state prosecutors are changed.

Abdul Khamzatov, defending Gennadi Yanayev, the former Soviet vice-president and figurehead of the failed coup, claimed that the court was not entitled to try the case because Russia was not formally the Soviet Union's successor state. The 12 men are being tried under Article 64 of the constitution for "high treason against the motherland", still defined as the Soviet Union despite its official demise 16 months ago.

The objection was overruled by Major General Anatoli Ukolov, the presiding judge, who said that all crimes committed on Russian territory could be considered by a Russian court. Mr Yanayev and Anatoli Lukyanov, the former Soviet parliamentary chairman, then announced that they and two other accused would boycott the proceedings unless the nine prosecutors, whom they accused of bias, were changed.

Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet Union's former prime minister, and Vladimir Kryuchkov, its KGB chief, are also among the main defendants charged with high treason, a crime

carrying the death sentence or 15 years in prison. The case is being tried by a military court — a presiding judge and two "people's assessors", all army men — because of the presence in the dock of two former high military officers, Dmitri Yazov, who was defence minister, and Valentin Varennikov, commander of ground forces.

The first day of the hearing ended abruptly when one of the defendants staggered from the court, apparently ill. Aleksandr Tizyakov, who was head of the state industrialists' association at the time of the coup, left the room bent double and coughing. Mr Yanayev, referring to the amount of time the defendants had already spent in prison, appealed for an easier schedule to spare their health.

The men accused of holding their country to ransom, bringing tanks to the streets of the capital and ordering the house arrest of President Gorbachev in August 1991 had been led into the tiny courtroom under tight security. They sat only a few yards away from the families of the three young men killed when tanks tried to crash through a barricade of buses erected by pro-Yeltsin crowds in Moscow in the aftermath of the coup.

The alleged plotters appear confident of acquittal and are using the trial as a rallying point for Communist sympathisers. Before going to court, they gathered supporters around them on a busy shopping street and held a demonstration in favour of the

restoration of the Soviet Union and the prosecution of President Yeltsin for "selling out the motherland to foreigners".

The trial is being held in the building which once housed the Soviet supreme court. The accused claim they acted constitutionally in taking "emergency steps" to prevent the signing of Mr Gorbachev's Union Treaty, which was to turn the Soviet Union into a loose federation. Some of the defendants also accuse Mr Gorbachev of being party to the declaration of a state of emergency.

Mr Kryuchkov, said to have masterminded the coup, said outside the court that he did not respect the judges' right to try him or his co-defendants. "The organs of justice would be better occupied pursuing the people who destroyed the motherland and all that she stood for," he said.

Oleg Sheinin, a senior party official and now head of the revived Communist party, added: "I don't care how this trial ends... the important thing is that the accused should finally have the chance to reveal what really happened in August 1991."

The timing of the trial, 11 days before the referendum on power which will help decide Mr Yeltsin's fate, intensifies the mood of uncertainty in Moscow. The Russian leader said yesterday that the decision to open the case now was "unfortunate", but added: "They will be busy arguing about protocol for the next two weeks anyway."



The way they were: five of the 12 alleged plotters of the Soviet coup against President Gorbachev. Aleksandr Tizyakov, Valentin Pavlov, Boris Pugo, Gennadi Yanayev and Oleg Baklanov, at a Moscow press conference on August 14, 1991. Pugo committed suicide soon after.



In the dock: eight of the former Soviet leaders arriving for the start of their trial yesterday. Top row, Vladimir Kryuchkov, left, KGB chief; Dmitri Yazov, defence minister; Yanayev, vice-president; and Anatoli Lukyanov, parliamentary chairman. Bottom row, left, Valentin Pavlov, prime minister; Baklanov, deputy state defence council chief; Starodubtsev, collective farm chief; and Vyacheslav Generalov, deputy head of KGB presidential security.

Turkish president warns Armenia

FROM ANATOLI LIEVEN IN BAKU

PRESIDENT Ozal of Turkey, in Azerbaijan on the last stage of a tour of Turkic-speaking countries of the former Soviet Union, has emphasised Turkish support for Azerbaijan and given a warning that tolerance of Armenian conquests is coming to an end.

Mr Ozal told his Azerbaijani hosts that "this is no longer a question of Karabakh alone; it must be viewed as part of an attempt to create a Greater Armenia". For Turks, this conjures up the spectre of historic Armenian claims to much of eastern Turkey, which helped to provoke the Turkish massacres of Armenians in 1915 and remains a bitter source of contention between the Turks and Armenians.

Mr Ozal told an official dinner in Baku: "In Armenia, some circles wish to test the patience of the Turkish people. They are making a terrible mistake."

However, Mr Ozal made no promise of military support or weapons supplies to Azerbaijan. An Azerbaijani deputy remarked after his speech to the Azerbaijani parliament yesterday that "we are grateful for Turkish solidarity, but we had hoped for more concrete results. Turkey ought to be able to make decisions on its own and not be so dependent on the opinion of the West."

Azerbaijani officials have also expressed disappointment with the results of their own president's visit last week to Iran. Iranian expressions of support for Armenia have caused concern in Turkey, which regards Iran as a rival in the region. Azerbaijani officials privately criticise Iran for covertly supporting Armenia.

In his speech to the Azerbaijani parliament, President Ozal reflected Turkish disappointment with the development of economic links with Azerbaijan. He implicitly criticised the Azerbaijani government for not doing more to help itself and for not carrying out faster economic reforms.

Another factor inhibiting Turkey from intervening militarily on the Azerbaijani side is the possibility of conflict with Russia. Moscow has important military bases in the region and regards Armenia as an ally.

British aid: The British government yesterday announced that it was giving £100,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for humanitarian relief in Azerbaijan.

G7 gives Russia billions in aid tied to reforms

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

FOREIGN and finance ministers from G7 nations gathered here yesterday with Andrei Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, for two days of discussions on aid to Russia. They agreed that the success of Russia's reforms depended urgently on support by G7 and the international community, and that swift and tangible aid to Russia would be "an investment in the future".

They emphasised, however, that the honouring of aid pledges would be dependent on a continuation of reform efforts in three areas — political reform towards democracy, economic reform towards a market economy, and foreign policy reform towards becoming a constructive member of the international community.

In spite of the consistent rhetoric of urgency and the sense of rivalry that appears to underscore some countries' announcements of new aid packages, G7 ministers are expected to wrap up the meeting today with a number of new frameworks for aid in which priorities and components have been mapped out but for which funding sources have not been decided.

Japan, alone of the G7 nations, with its growing economy, a current account surplus of \$118 billion (£76 billion) and a trade surplus heading for \$160 billion this year, has the kind of room to manoeuvre in providing tangible assistance to Russia which other leaders can only dream of. Yet

the bulk of Japan's pledges are still restrictively tied to Japanese private sector investment, which is not forthcoming. They are not likely to become any more tangible until Russia makes significant progress in the territorial dispute over the Kurile islands. Mr Kozyrev reported to his Japanese counterpart, Kabin Muto, that President Yeltsin may visit Japan officially next month. Mr Muto said his government would welcome the visit.

Specific new plans and commitments were announced yesterday by the United States. Japan and Britain and there was the promise of a new aid plan to be revealed today by Italy. America unveiled a plan to create a \$4 billion fund aimed at privatising and reviving Russia's main state industries.

Britain announced an extra \$600 million package of support for economic reforms in the form of new export credits worth \$500 million, an increase in technical assistance from \$60 million to \$100 million and a contribution to a fund for small businesses.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, told reporters of Britain's belief in "the need to support the practical business of reforming the Russian economy through privatisation, the growth of small businesses and the development of the financial sector".

Output surges, page 25
Economic view, page 29

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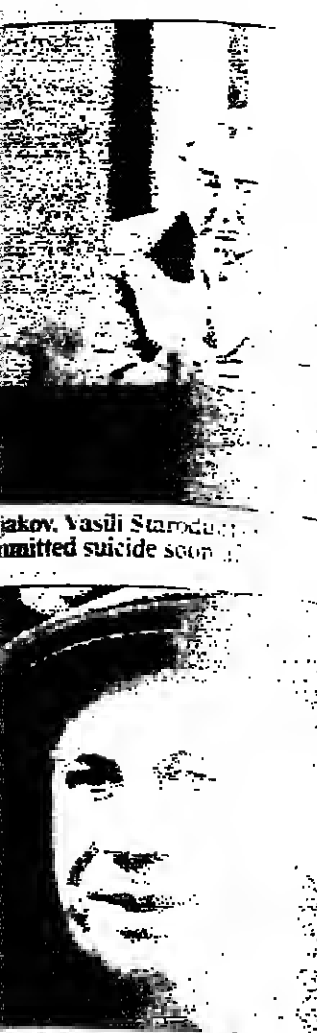
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فكرنا من الاصل



Beverly Hills rich await King verdict with dread

Police cars are highly visible in white Los Angeles. As the jury deliberates, rumours abound of black gangs planning mass assaults

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN LOS ANGELES

A SENSE of impending doom gripped many of the wealthier residents in the fastnesses of Beverly Hills last night as they awaited the verdict in the Rodney King case.

Yesterday, as the jury in the federal trial of the four officers accused of violating Mr King's civil rights began its fifth day of deliberations, the city continued to prepare for potential rioting while officials repeated calls for calm.

Geographically, the fear of rioting appears to be most acute in those areas where renewed violence is least likely the white, protected enclaves in Hollywood, Bel Air and Beverly Hills.

The tension which local television stations insist is sweeping the city is hardly noticeable on the streets of South-Central Los Angeles, the area which saw some of the worst of last April's riots and where gang violence is endemic.

Since the jury started deliberations, the Los Angeles police department has sent in a handful of extra squad cars to patrol the area, but is maintaining a low profile.

On Tuesday, the pot-holed streets of South-Central were largely deserted save for a handful of teenagers hanging around a street corner. One of these, identifiable as a member of the Crips gang by the tear drop tattooed on his left eye, a mark of respect to a dead comrade, said he would shoot a cop if the four officers "walked", but then changed his mind and, grinning, said there would be no riot. He appeared to be about 12 years old.

Driving down the wide, well-lit streets of Beverly Hills, the number of police cars posted at crossroads increases dramatically. Here rumours, with a thick overlay of racial prejudice, have been circulating during the five days of deliberations: the gangs, it

was said, planned to drive in convoys up to the rich areas and mount an assault on the whites, while others claimed would-be rioters were stealing the licence plates from police cars to slip into the white neighbourhoods to carry out untold crimes.

Some white residents have left the city, others have stockpiled provisions, and a handful have bought guns. To judge from the callers to a local radio talk show on Tuesday night, it is the white inhabitants on the outskirts of the city who are most fearful of renewed violence, despite having least to fear.

"There's going to be an explosion, I know it," wailed one housewife from Glen Ridge, the whitest of white suburbs.

Benjamin Chavis, the new head of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, America's largest and oldest civil rights group, visited one of the city's



Eye contact: a lawyer for one of the Los Angeles accused being confronted by a man outside the court yesterday

housing projects on Tuesday and pointed out the discrepancy. "There is calmness in the hood," he said. "But that is mismatched with the overall unreasonableness around

the periphery of the city." While urging calm and criticising the media for fomenting panic, the city authorities have also contributed to the atmosphere of tension: concrete barriers have been set up around the federal courthouse and other government buildings, while Representative Maxine Waters distributed 350,000 leaflets warning

apocalyptically: "If you take to the streets... you give the police the legal right to kill you." Amid the wishful thinking and the fear, the varied predictions of complete peace

and all-out anarchy, it has become impossible to tell how the city may react to the verdicts when these finally emerge. But one fact seems clear: many of those in the greatest states of alarm face more danger from what might be termed "pre-traumatic stress disorder" than any more tangible threat.

Seven prisoners have died since the insurrection began last Sunday. Inmates are holding eight guards hostage. The authorities said that negotiations were continuing sporadically with leaders of up to 500 inmates who are sealed off in a block at the Ohio Correctional Facility.

The prison houses 1,819 inmates, described as the most dangerous in the state, under crowded conditions. A state police helicopter crashed near the prison during the night during a routine surveillance flight, injuring two people on board. The crash was blamed on mechanical failure. (Reuters)

Mitterrand and Pasqua clash on police killings

FROM NELSON GRAVES IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Mitterrand and France's centre-right government fell out for the first time yesterday over law and order after a series of police killings of petty criminals.

M Mitterrand was quoted as saying he had "some reservations" about a report by Charles Pasqua, the interior minister, which made no direct mention of the killings but emphasised record crime figures and the difficult conditions faced by police.

Officials at the Elysée palace gave no details of the objections, which signalled the first tensions between the Socialist president and the conservative government elected last month.

Three suspected petty criminals, two of them of African origin, were killed last week in a spate of police blunders that led to riots in Paris and the north, outraged civil rights groups, and prompted M Pasqua to warn the police not to overstep the boundaries of the law. Yesterday a boy of 15

was shot and badly wounded by police in a car chase near the port of Cherbourg.

Nicolas Sarkozy, the government spokesman, told reporters that M Pasqua made only an indirect allusion to the killings at the cabinet meeting, saying that citizens' rights must be carefully respected. He quoted the minister as saying that crime was at record levels and that police faced a welter of procedural and legal difficulties. "We must give them the means to work," M Pasqua said.

The interior minister blamed drugs and illegal immigration for the rise in crime. He also complained about limits on the right of the police to check identities, the "virtual impunity" of minors who are repeated offenders, and procedures hindering the expulsion of illegal immigrants. M Sarkozy said M Mitterrand reacted very briefly to M Pasqua's report, but would not specify how.

M Pasqua promised anti-crime measures next month. "Citizens' expectations with respect to law and order are extremely high," he said. "These expectations must not be let down."

On Sunday, Pascal Clément, the minister for parliamentary relations, supported a proposal to withdraw child benefits from parents of juvenile delinquents. But Simone Veil, the social affairs minister, said there was no question of adopting such an "arbitrary" proposal.

An opinion poll in the weekly *Globe* magazine showed that 20 per cent of French people are afraid of the police. (Reuters)



Pasqua expressed his support for police

Andreotti awaits Senate's verdict

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A COMMITTEE of senators yesterday began deliberating whether to strip Giulio Andreotti of his parliamentary immunity to face charges of protecting the Mafia and allegations that he attended Cosa Nostra "summits" in Sicily.

Signor Andreotti, 74, spent yesterday morning planning his defence against the allegations that he ordered the murder of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader, General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the anti-Mafia fighter, and Mino Pecorelli, an investigative journalist.

The life senator conferred with his lawyer, Odoardo Ascarelli, and his close aide, Claudio Vitalone, the foreign trade minister, as well as other Christian Democrat senators. He was then to address the committee of 23 senators to outline what he sees as the weaknesses in the request by Giancarlo Caselli, the Palermo magistrate, that his immunity be lifted.

"Andreotti will submit to the decisions of the immunity committee," said Gabriele De Rosa, chairman of the Christian Democrat group in the Senate. He said the party had not put pressure on its members on the committee to save Signor Andreotti. Some senators on the committee declared

in advance of the hearing their opinion about new accusations against Signor Andreotti made by two Mafia super-grassos, Tommaso Buscetta and Francesco Mannino.

"In my opinion they are not believable," said Luigi Compagna, a Liberal member of the committee. "They present contradictions in the descriptions of the leaders of Cosa Nostra."

Judge Caselli yesterday ordered the testimony he gathered from Buscetta and Mannino in the United States be made public. The two informers accused Signor Andreotti of meeting top Mafia bosses three times.

On two of these occasions, they allege, the Mafia kingpin Tanio Badalamenti visited Signor Andreotti at the beginning of the 1970s to ask him to arrange the rigging of a trial of a Mafia member. The second alleged meeting was in Palermo at the end of the 1970s when Mafia boss Stefano Bontade asked Signor Andreotti to curb Piersanti Mattarella, chairman of the Christian Democrat party in Sicily, who was leading an anti-crime crusade.

They say that Signor Andreotti played for time but the Mafia grew impatient and Mattarella was assassinated.

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THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY A hope in hand

Mandela is booed as blacks seek to avenge Hani death

■ Young ANC radicals are defying leadership appeals for restraint, with some calling for the assassination of President de Klerk

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN SOWETO

IT WAS a day when Nelson Mandela had to struggle to contain the anger of young blacks, and was booed for his trouble. "I understand your anger," he told the 30,000-strong crowd at the Chris Hani memorial rally in the dangerously overcrowded Jabulani stadium in Soweto. "We have to work with people we don't like to build a new South Africa. There must be no further loss of life at this tragic time." The crowd listened in sullen silence, and some jeered him.

Mr Mandela chided Andrew Dipela, a member of the executive of the African National Congress Youth League, who had demanded action to take revenge for the killing. The ANC president said that the tragedy of Mr Hani's death had opened a golden opportunity to move to a speedy conclusion of the deadlock in constitutional talks with the government. "The resolution of our problem is going to be faster," Mr Mandela also said that the assassination had brought together different and often

quarrelling parts of the South African liberation movement. On the platform with Mr Mandela were Clarence Makwetu, the president of the Pan Africanist Congress, and Ithumeleng Mosala, the president of the Azanian People's Organisation.

Though Mr Mandela was listened to politely enough, the crowd's most enthusiastic cheers were reserved for his more fiery colleagues, including Ntusiwo Mapisa, the national organiser of the ANC Women's League, who said that she had heard his call for discipline, and demanded: "But for how long? How long should we wait? How long?"

She told her leaders: "The women of this country cannot wait any longer. Our deepest anger cannot be stopped by our president. We can't wait for them to assassinate you. We don't want you to lead us from a box. We want you to lead us now."

Similar cheers greeted Mr Dipela's call for the youth of the country to seize the centres of the cities, and to start tomorrow by blockading Jo-

hannesburg. He declared: "Comrade president, we are going to remain ungovernable in such a way that they are going to regret the killing of comrade Chris Hani."

The 30,000 crammed into a stadium built for 12,000 cheered, sang, fired off revolvers and waved placards which called for the assassination of President de Klerk, or for all Poles to be sent back to Poland "or else", a reference to the Polish nationality of Janusz Walus, the alleged killer.

After the meeting, the crowds began to threaten police stations in the township. I saw one police car surrounded by a mob which started throwing rocks at it. The police immediately started brandishing automatic pistols and shotguns and the protesters melted away at high speed.

At the memorial service for Mr Hani, held at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg, Toyko Sexwale, the chairman of the African National Congress in the region, said: "We exploited him while he was alive. Let's exploit his



Flames of revolution: black power salutes at a blazing barricade in Alexandra township, Johannesburg, yesterday

death. Rolling mass action must not stop."

In Cape Town, mobs of protesters arrived at the city station and immediately spilled into the main streets, breaking windows and stealing goods. Two motorcycles were set on fire, and one young man was wounded

when police opened fire. A black police sergeant who was shot in the head and severely wounded was taken to hospital. The demonstrators managed to derail a train by stampeding vigorously and rocking it from side to side. The law and order situation in Port Elizabeth was

described as chaotic. In Pietermaritzburg, Natal, one of the biggest crowds in living memory gathered to hear Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of the ANC president, and Harry Gwala, the militant leader of the ANC in the Natal Midlands. According to employers' or-

ganisations, the work boycott was the most rigorous ever experienced in South Africa. The Chamber of Business estimated that 80 per cent of the work force stayed away yesterday. Only in the mines were the figures lower.

Day of violence, page 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Haiti given way out of stalemate

Miami: Dante Caputo, a United Nations special envoy bringing a new plan to restore democracy in Haiti, resumed talks yesterday in Port-au-Prince in a mood of optimism (writes David Adams).

The plan presented to General Raoul Cedras would mean a guaranteed amnesty for all officers involved in the September 1991 coup which ousted President Aristide; appointment of an interim prime minister; the return of the president; and lifting of a regional economic embargo.

Victory parade

Kuwait: Thousands of Kuwaitis greeted George Bush, the former US president, as he arrived for a visit, in tribute to his Gulf war leadership. Camels are to be slain in his honour. (Reuters)

Police killed

Algiers: Unidentified men killed three gendarmes and wounded another in western Algeria. Three civilians died in separate attacks in Bougara, 15 miles southeast of the capital. (Reuters)

Skiers triumph

San Francisco: Mark Wellman, 32, and Jeff Page, 44, both paralysed from the waist down, completed a 50-mile crossing of the Sierra Nevada on skis, the first without able-bodied assistance. (Reuters)

Summit in Egypt raises peace hope

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ISMAILIA

THE search for Middle East peace received a much needed boost yesterday during an ambitious summit between Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, and President Mubarak of Egypt.

The summit, in a villa overlooking the Suez Canal where the peace process was first nurtured in 1977, was the second in nine months but only the third in six years; a reminder of the thaw in the cold peace since Mr Rabin's election victory last summer.

The Egyptian leader, whose peace efforts have increased the threats against him by Islamic militants, said he was now hopeful that the peace talks would resume on schedule in Washington on April 20. A final positive answer is expected from a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Damascus tomorrow to be attended by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"All our efforts are focused on starting the negotiations on schedule," added Mr Mubarak, who 24 hours earlier had met Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, in Cairo.

Senior sources said Cairo's role had been to persuade the PLO that the chance of solving the Palestinian question was more important than the 396 Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon.

Palestinians have boycotted peace talks since Israel expelled 415 Palestinian radicals last December. The

sources said the PLO was expected to come under "irresistible pressure" to return to the negotiating table.

As a sweetener to the PLO, which is under strong pressure from Hamas and other radical Palestinian groups to maintain the boycott, Mr Rabin announced for the first time that Israel would allow an east Jerusalem Arab to join the negotiations. Palestinians of east Jerusalem origin have been barred because Israel felt that talks with them might raise doubts over its claim to permanent control of the city.

Ending the ban, Mr Rabin said that Faisal al-Husseini, a member of a prominent Jerusalem family, could lead the Palestinian delegation.

Barbara Amiel, page 20



Mubarak adding to pressure on PLO

Israeli roads reap a grim harvest

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN Israeli motorists headed for coastal resorts during Passover, the authorities were helpless to prevent the country's biggest killer striking again.

Three Israelis died and 22 were injured on the country's lethal highways in a series of gruesome accidents no different from those that mar every weekend. The carnage was the latest example of a disturbing trend in which poor and aggressive driving claims the lives of far more Israelis than attacks by all the country's Arab enemies.

Last year, for example, 502 people were killed in road accidents, an increase of more than 11 per cent on 1991. Susan Hattis Rolet, a left-wing columnist, pointed out that 168 Israelis were killed by Arabs "with a cause" during the past five years of the intifada, while 2,500 Israelis were killed by "Jews in a hurry".

"If any enemy killed ten Israelis every week, the nation would go into paroxysms of fury and demand action. That cars kill at least as many is hardly noticed by anyone," said

the *Jerusalem Post* in an editorial condemning the lack of public action. "Driving etiquette is almost unknown here; drivers' skills are low-level speeding, tailgating and insane risk-taking are a national sport."

"Campaigns for road safety have been sponsored by the president. The transportation ministry has spent small fortunes on gimmicky advertisements and elaborate safe-promotion schemes. But little has been achieved."

In their defence, Israeli drivers have come up with an array of excuses. For instance, there are far more cars on the roads today than a decade ago, and road infrastructure has failed to keep up, making traffic more congested and more accident-prone. The army is also blamed for teaching youngsters bad habits, and new immigrants are accused of not adjusting to Israeli road conditions.

None of which adequately explains, however, why Israel is one of the most accident-prone countries in the Western world.



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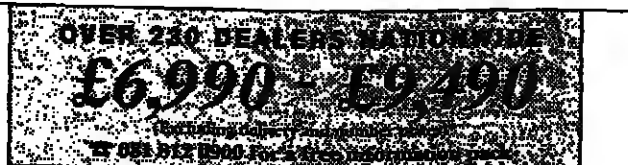


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تَكَذَّبُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Panic spreads as Khmer Rouge cuts off key town

The capture of the celebrated 12th-century temples at Angkor would provide the communist faction with a psychological victory

By JAMES PRINGLE IN SIEM REAP AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

UNITED Nations peacekeepers were last night preparing for a possible attempt by the Khmer Rouge to capture the Angkor temples at Siem Reap, and the UN-sponsored Cambodian peace process was near collapse as the faction's leaders fled Phnom Penh, the capital.

Troops of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh regime threw a defensive security cordon round Siem Reap, which has a population of 60,000, as the Khmer Rouge cut the main highway from the town to the east and west. The Khmer Rouge has enough forces in Siem Reap to hold it for at least a few hours, said Major Rousthan Salikav, a UN observer. "They have troops all the way round the city. Their plan might be to enter and blow up some buildings to demonstrate their power."

The capture of the 12th-century temples of Angkor, the most famous of which is Angkor Wat, would provide the Khmer Rouge with a psychological victory. There was a mood of near-panic in Siem Reap as reports came in of Khmer Rouge attacks elsewhere in the province.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) has revived its evacuation plans, and Bangladesh and other UN troops who are protecting the province are digging bunkers and sand-bagging their positions. Military sources say that some Bangladesh soldiers have been asked to be withdrawn after the death of one of their colleagues in a Khmer Rouge shelling attack last month.

Major Dewan Tarek of the Bangladesh battalion said at Siem Reap: "The situation is very tense. People have lost their confidence."

Muhammad Hunyan, the senior United Nations electoral officer, helping to arrange the UN-supervised elections throughout Cambodia from May 23, said: "In this kind of situation there is no need of elections—democracy will not work in Cambodia any more."

Frightened election workers from many countries have been moved into UN compounds in the town centre after the killing of a Japanese election worker last week. Khieu Samphan, the nominal Khmer Rouge leader, left his compound next to the palace in Phnom Penh, taking all his followers with him. They were carrying as many documents as they could, dealing another serious blow to the peace process.

In a letter to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of state, Mr Samphan said he no longer felt safe in the capital. UN officials, urging the Khmer Rouge to return, yesterday promised to provide its members with increased security. The Khmer Rouge is blamed for the death of five UN personnel in the past two weeks, including three Bulgarian soldiers who were murdered by their guests after inviting Khmer Rouge soldiers, whom they knew, to dinner in their compound, northwest of the capital.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who was in Cambodia last week, believes that maintaining dia-

logue with the Khmer Rouge is the best policy in the circumstances, given the deteriorating relations with the followers of Pol Pot.

Untac says the election, in which the UN has invested more than \$2 billion (£1.3 billion), will go ahead whatever happens. Ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations meeting in Tokyo supported this view.

But anarchy reigns in Siem Reap province, where four UN policemen were held up by bandits, and at Damdek, 20 miles east of Siem Reap, hundreds of villagers fled as Khmer Rouge shells landed within 100 yards of a UN compound housing three military observers. Elsewhere, mines were exploding and the Khmer Rouge was setting up roadblocks around the temples.



Mother's grief: the mother of Yoon Kum E, a murdered bar hostess, is comforted as she weeps after a Seoul court sentenced Kenneth Markle, a US army private in South Korea, to life imprisonment for her murder. Markle, from West Virginia, denied that he

had killed his victim after hitting her on the head with a bottle, but the judges said forensic evidence proved his guilt. Yoon, who was sexually abused, bled to death in her room. Markle is the first US serviceman to receive such a sentence in South Korea. (Reuter)

PoW document raises obstacle to Hanoi accord

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JUST as Washington was preparing to close one of the most painful chapters in American history by returning relations with Vietnam to normal, that process has been checked abruptly by a newly discovered document suggesting that Hanoi had failed to release more than 600 American prisoners after the war.

Congressmen, veterans' organisations and families of the 2,260 servicemen still unaccounted for have seized on the document to demand that President Clinton should resist business pressure to lift the 18-year-old trade embargo that has kept Vietnam one of the world's poorest nations.

Hanoi has condemned the document as a fake designed to prevent the two countries resolving their long-standing enmity. The administration has withheld judgement, but is sending General John Vessey, a special presidential emissary, to Hanoi next week to try to determine the document's authenticity and accuracy.

Discovered by a Harvard researcher in the old Soviet Communist Party's Moscow archives, the document appears explosive. It is purported-

ly a detailed secret report written in September 1972 by Tran Van Quang, who is described as deputy chief of staff of the North Vietnamese army. It asserts that North Vietnam was holding 1,205 Americans in 11 prison camps at a time when Hanoi publicly acknowledged only 368. In 1973, after signing the Paris peace accord, Hanoi released 591 Americans and insisted that Vietnam was holding no more.

The document divides the Americans by rank, place of capture and even the strength of their support for the war. The American government "does not know the exact number of prisoners of war and is able only to surmise about them on the basis of its losses. That is why... we are keeping secret the numbers of POWs," it says.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, a Soviet scholar and President Carter's national security adviser, said he had examined the document, believed it to be authentic and concluded that the Vietnamese had probably taken "hundreds of American officers out and shot them in cold blood."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Carmelite nuns told to leave Auschwitz

Rome: The Pope has told a group of Carmelite nuns at Auschwitz that it is time for them to leave their convent inside the former death camp, the Vatican said yesterday (John Phillips writes). The Roman Catholic leader sent a letter to the 14 nuns on Saturday in response to a request by them for his opinion before making any move. Joaquin Navarro Vals, the Vatican spokesman, said: "The pontiff wrote to the nuns that the moment had now come for them to leave the convent as foreseen under the accords at Geneva in 1987 between Jews and Catholics. In the past the Vatican has said it intended to leave the dispute to the Polish bishops' conference to resolve."

The presence of the nuns at Auschwitz has been a source of conflict between Catholics and Jews for nine years.

Somali killed

Mogadishu: Australian soldiers shot dead a shopkeeper during a weapons sweep in the central Somali village of Berdaale, an American military spokesman said. The soldiers opened fire when the shopkeeper raised a weapon at them. (Reuter)

Poll verdict

Madrid: Forty per cent of Spaniards believe the ruling Socialists will win general elections on June 6, compared with 62 per cent a month ago, according to a poll published in *El Pais*. Only 8 per cent expected the Socialists to win an outright majority. (Reuter)

Porn sentence

Peking: A Chinese court sentenced to death a man charged with selling pornography, and gave another 12 years in jail for illegal publishing. The death sentence will be suspended for two years and commuted to a life term on good behaviour. (Reuter)

Story banned

Jacksonville, Florida: The fairy tale *Snow White* has been banned by schools from under-eighth classes for being too violent. Parents complained about the wicked stepmother eating a boy's lungs and liver thinking them to be Snow White's. (AFP)



Sir Robin: leader of the British team at talks

Quibbles by China mar Hong Kong joy

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's relief over the announcement that Britain and China are to resume talks on its future democratic development was tempered slightly yesterday by a renewed Chinese attack. The local stock market, however, soared to record highs as investors took in the news that talks would restart next Thursday.

Zhang Zhunsheng, deputy director of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, accused Britain of "pulling little tricks", saying it had disclosed the line-up of its team at the talks although the two sides had agreed to name only the leaders.

In an interview with a local radio station, Mr Zhang said each side would have only one representative. Sir Robin McLaren, the British ambassador to Peking, and Jiang Enzhu, the Chinese deputy foreign minister. Everyone else would participate as experts and advisers, a formulation carefully avoided by Britain, which has insisted that the Hong Kong government officials will have the same status as their British counterparts.

Mr Zhang denies that China has made any concessions on the status of Hong Kong officials, although local commentators said that the defensiveness of Chinese spokesmen here suggested there had been a climbdown.

Although Mr Zhang said he hoped Britain would not put new obstacles in the way of talks, analysts said that the two sides' positions were not incompatible. They said all but the team leaders in both delegations could be seen as advisers and experts.



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Masako Owada was a 21st-century role model for Japanese women, until she opted for ancient obedience, Joanna Pitman reports

Why exchange a platform for a throne?

Japanese womanhood is confused. On the one hand young women are being bullied by their mothers and grandmothers to abandon selfish dreams of a career in order to spend their lives nannying husbands and children. On the other, they are haunted by their brilliant American sisters' calls for them to be modern and assertive, to tackle Japan's male-dominated elite head on and grab it all, to go for career, independence, a family and a live-in nanny.

Now one of their few career-woman role models, well on her way to having it all, has dumped it all for a life as the submissive little wife. On Monday, Masako Owada, the 29-year-old foreign ministry career diplomat headed for the history books as Japan's first female ambassador, became officially engaged to Crown Prince Naruhito, bidding farewell to her own modernity and psychologically wiping out a couple of decades of effort in the slow advancement of women towards the forefront of Japanese society.

The engagement ceremony was a festival of some of the imperial household's most arcane rituals, and offered stark testimony of Miss Owada's transformation from assertive career woman into a symbol of traditionally compliant Japanese womanhood.

Trussed up in a heavily embroidered silk kimono, she hobbled towards her future, groomed and versed in 8th-century etiquette to match the ritual, and performed her rehearsed routine to perfection.

She described a slow bow of 15 degrees lasting not more than four seconds but not less than three, eyes lowered as befits a court lady, and recited lines that have scarcely changed since first spoken by putative princesses at least as early as the 8th century.

It was difficult to reconcile this picture of absolute tradition with

Pushing 30 and spending much of her life at her desk, it appeared she had married her career

the sharp trade negotiator whose sallies at bilateral talks in Washington on the semiconductor sector of the "structural impediments initiative" are said to have kept her US counterparts on their toes.

As the eldest daughter of the head of the Japanese diplomatic service and the grand-daughter of two admirals, Miss Owada was brought up with an education that perfectly prepared her as one of Japan's highly valued (and still rare) "internationalists". She spent her childhood in Tokyo and Moscow and then attended high school in Boston, Massachusetts, while her father was a lecturer at Harvard

University. She speaks fluent English and French and has few problems in Russian, German and Spanish.

She is a graduate in international relations of both Harvard and Oxford, and has taken an MA course at Tokyo University. While at Harvard she wrote a 99-page thesis entitled "External Adjustments to Import Price Shocks: Oil in Japanese Trade," which detailed how Japan survived the two oil shocks of the 1970s to become a major economic power with a huge trade surplus.

Back in Tokyo, pushing 30 and spending much of her life at her foreign ministry desk, it appeared that Miss Owada had married her career, especially after it emerged that in 1989 she had politely brushed off Crown Prince Naruhito's amorous overtures. But Japan's rapacious media sensed more and pursued her relentlessly, one particularly persistent photographer coming away with a bruised ego after an earbashing from the feisty Miss Owada.

In January Japan was delighted to learn that Miss Owada was to be their next empress. It appeared that last October she had accepted an invitation to go duck shooting in the imperial grounds, and the lovelorn prince had managed to sway the steady trade negotiator, perhaps wooing her with talk of his other abiding passion — 18th-century transport on the Thames, which had kept him busy during his own spell at Oxford from 1983 to 1985.

Miss Owada is now turning back



Then and now: Masako Owada, the career woman who negotiated international trade deals, has been turned into a submissive princess-to-be



the clock and entering the archaic world of the Japanese imperial family, a royal lineage the Japanese claim is the oldest in the world and dates back to the mythical sun goddess Amaterasu, who reigned so long ago that no one dares to presume to date her existence.

Today, the thick stone walls of the imperial palace, in the centre of Tokyo, still hide a world of arcane ritual and stiff protocol, dominated by the Imperial Household Agency, an august body of elderly aristocrats whose task it is to maintain the veil of mystique that still shrouds the imperial family.

Miss Owada has spent the last six weeks under intensive formal instruction from a selection of nonagenarian tutors who have drilled her in calligraphy, 31-syllable poetry, the imperial rice harvest rite and other court rituals.

Most important, however, is court etiquette. Miss Owada's cardinal rule now is never to walk in front of either the crown prince or the emperor and empress. She has also been studiously practising formal bowing techniques — 15 degrees to the public, 30 degrees to other royals and 45 degrees to the emperor and empress, with hands

clasped in front of or to the side as the occasion demands. There are strict dress codes too that dictate, among other details, smaller hats than the empress on all occasions, and kimono fabrics that will not detract from the empress's.

At her wedding on June 9, Miss Owada will be bound up in a 12-layered junihitoe silk kimono which, judging from a brief and uncomfortable personal experience, is both heavy — it weighs in at 15kg — and hot.

According to the traditional view, and the one which appears to be prevalent in the imperial house-

hold agency, Miss Owada's primary role will be to produce an heir. To assure the gods formally that she is suitable to the task, she will have to go through a ceremony on her wedding night at Ise Shrine, standing naked before the high priestess and her attendants who will purify her body with rice bran and check her fertility.

As her wedding day approaches and she is slowly but surely packed into the constraining box of imperial tradition, Miss Owada may wish she were safely back at her foreign ministry desk, totting up semiconductor trade statistics.

The story of my downfall

Ben Macintyre in Los Angeles on an oppressed new minority

I have just acquired a new status in American society: I have become a member of an oppressed minority.

This development, which occurred without my realising it, was officially announced in a recent issue of *Newsweek*. White males such as myself, it stated, can now join the long list of sexual and ethnic subsets in America that feel they are getting a raw deal.

Hitherto victimhood was one of the few clubs in America closed to Anglo-Saxon men, but now we too can claim we are being unjustly treated by society. The WASP has become an endangered species.

This transformation of the white male from top dog to underdog is reflected in *Falling Down*, the new Hollywood film starring Michael Douglas, which has already developed a cult following in America. Mr Douglas plays an ex-military factory worker and Vietnam veteran called D-fens (his personalised car number plate) who gets stuck in a Los Angeles traffic jam and goes berserk.

D-fens, the archetypal square with a good line in moral outrage and a bad haircut, goes on the rampage against gang members, blacks, hispanics, his ex-wife, a skinhead neo-Nazi, the elderly, road construction workers and many more. Some he just berates, most he shoots. As the film approaches its bloody climax, D-fens asks plaintive-



As mad as hell: Michael Douglas lashes out as the American white male feels threatened

ly: "I'm the bad guy?" At this point during the performance I attended, a number of men in the audience broke into appreciative applause.

The Michael Douglas character is intended as a symbol of the WASP driven to insanity by the pressures of modern American life and mores: his wife doesn't want him, innuendo shopkeepers don't treat him with respect, pan-handlers hassle him and, in short, nobody likes him. By most standards, *Falling Down* is a fairly run-of-the-mill maniac, but in the midst of America's current moral confusion he has struck a chord. He is, as *Newsweek* put it, "a cartoon vision of the beleaguered male in multicultural America".

The white American male is no longer the complacent figure he once was: oppressed by

ferminism, political correctness, rap music, inner-city poverty, violence, gay rights and uncertainty over what constitutes sexual harassment, he feels guilty, confused and paranoid. Why, he cries, is everybody getting at me? What do Thelma and Louise have against me? He has become, he feels, the scapegoat for all that is wrong with the country.

He has a point. Consider this description of her male colleagues by a 36-year-old woman business executive, which appeared recently in a *Pittsburgh* paper: "A bunch of shallow, bald, middle-aged men with character disorders. They don't have the emotional capacity that it takes to qualify as human beings. The one good thing about these white, male almost-extinct mammals is that they're growing old. We get to watch them die."

No amount of "Iron John" therapy (a pop psychology programme which encourages oppressed males to run around in the woods grunting) to rediscover their essential masculinity is going to compensate for that kind of talk.

Practically speaking, white males have nothing to complain about. According to *Newsweek*, they make up about 40 per cent of America's population, but are overwhelmingly represented in positions of power within politics, business and the media. They are still far richer, more privileged and independent than any other group.

Since white males effectively run America, the argument goes, the parous and disturbing state America finds itself in must be largely their fault. This line of attack has filtered through to the white male, whose response is a combina-

tion of impotent anger and guilt about the way things are.

Two key events have compounded their bafflement and uncertainty: the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas sexual harassment hearings and the Rodney King trials. The feminist backlash prompted by the hearings has left many American men in a sort of hormonal limbo, uncertain about what constitutes acceptable sexual behaviour and unwilling to risk the legal fees that might result from trying to find out.

Similarly, the first trial and acquittal of the policemen accused of assaulting Rodney King, and the resulting riots, made even the most satisfied of white Americans question their collective role in American society.

The result of these bitter debates, say psychologists, is to leave many white American men almost bereft of pride. The old macho icons have been deemed unacceptable, and their replacement — the New Man who loves babies and washing up — is widely considered a cop-out invented by women, and unlikely to catch on.

With America now going through one of its periodic bouts of soul-searching, the status of victim is at a premium and white males are eager not to be left out in the race for maximum self-pity. But non-white, non-males point out that white men have enjoyed, and often abused their superior position in society and if they feel uncomfortable now that the world has come full circle, tough luck.

So I and my fellow white, male almost-extinct mammals face a choice: we can either go off the deep end and, like D-fens, start a gun-battle, or we can stop whining, lie back and take it like a man.

The 'nuclear family' may no longer exist, but marriage remains popular

Dr Julian Hafner has managed to create quite a stir with his frankly unsatisfactory book, *The End of Marriage: Why Monogamy Isn't Working*. The reason, no doubt, is that we all know our conventional view of marriage as a life-long joyful union between a man and a woman who will create for their children a warm, secure nest that will still be there when those children themselves breed is at odds with reality.

The latest Office of Population Censuses and Surveys figures indicate that one-third of children in inner London live in one-parent families. It is possible to extrapolate from the 1989 figures that, at any one time, only 8 per cent of us actually live in that traditional family where father is breadwinner, mother is homemaker and there are resident children in the nest.

Certainly, marriage remains popular, and a much higher proportion of adults now marry than they did when marriage was a contract driven primarily by economic rather than emotional considerations. Nevertheless we are uncomfortably aware that modern marriages do not seem built to last. If trends persist, more than one-in-three marriages now taking place will end in divorce. The second marriages into which divorced people generally hasten appear to be built even more flimsily.

Some should perhaps not be surprised that the number of weddings is in sharp decline, and that so many people choose to cohabit instead. However, since we know those relationships to be even less durable — all those children in one-parent families — we realise that the second part of Dr Hafner's title urgently needs addressing even as we laugh off the first part.

The end of marriage is no more imminent now than it was in the 17th century when Samuel Butler asked: "For in what stupid age or nation/ Was marriage ever out of fashion?" But it would indeed be a stupid nation that did not recognise, and was not concerned by, the strains of change upon that venerable institution.

Unfortunately, Dr Hafner's book is not much help. His thesis, in 280 eccentric pages of unsound statistics (for example, that one unmarried young woman in three in mid-Victorian London was a full-time prostitute), part-digested feminist reassessments of history, fascinating but not strictly relevant digressions into social customs of warrior clans in Papua New Guinea, interspersed with sound nuggets of

Divorced from reality



Till death us do part: Victorian marriages were built to last

clinical psychiatric observation, amounts to little more than what *Punch* put more pithily in the 1940s: "Advice to persons about to marry — 'Don't'."

Dr Hafner's central assertion that married women of 25 to 40 years old are three times as likely as their single contemporaries to suffer avoidable mental illness, and that therefore marriage is bad for women's mental health, has been challenged in the columns of this newspaper by the president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

As an Englishman who trained and worked here as a psychiatrist, and then proceeded via America to his professorship at Flinders University in what one can only call the pre-feminist society of South Australia, Dr Hafner blithely hopes to speak for the entire English-speaking world. It won't wash.

His case histories of neurotically housebound women married to macho, all-providing husbands who won't let their wives go out to work because the neighbours will think them incapable of discharging their bread-winning duties, may be authentically South Australian (or perhaps Japanese), but they sound quaint to modern British ears.

Similarly, his assertion that women suffer overwhelming social pressure to drop their careers and become full-time mothers simply does not apply in Britain today. Dr Hafner is on firmer ground in identifying a disjunction between our ideal of marriage as that of romantic, passionate love and at the same time a system for managing the mundane, over a period of perhaps 60 years. Can a husband really be Heathcliff or Mr Rochester

a woman isolated at home with children and her super-new household gadgets must be blissfully happy, while her returned warrior husband must be thrilled to be doing battle on her behalf with long hours of work and commuting to bring home the bacon.

From this low point, a feminist backlash was bound to spring and sexual liberation helps to establish a cart-before-horse view that passionate, romantic (that is, sexual) love was the necessary preliminary for the best friends act that marriage was also supposed to be.

Add to this the false notion that Miss or Mr Right would inevitably swan into the lives of the young unmarried without any careful social organising, and you have a blueprint for a lot of failed marriages.

There are signs, however, that the unmarried young are inclining towards testing the friendship first, watching it develop into passion and ditching some romanticism. The effects on this generation and their parents of Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, the new best seller which deals in detail with the ramifications of arranging marriages with a view to their longevity and the partners' compatibility, could be interesting.

MARGOT NORMAN

IS THIS THE END OF MARRIAGE?

MARRIAGE is a damaging and outmoded institution, says Dr Julian Hafner, the psychiatrist and author of the new book, *The End of Marriage: Why Monogamy Isn't Working*. Is he right? He will defend his views at a Times/Dillons debate at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on April 21 at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained by completing the coupon below, calling at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6EQ, or telephoning Dillons on 071-915 6613.

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Cuba heals with carrots

DURING the second world war, the public was led to believe that the success of "Cats' Eyes" Cunningham, Johnny Topham and a handful of other night fighter aces was in no small way due to their dedication to eating carrots. Only later did it transpire that the story was in part disinformation to distract Germany from the development of radar, and in part to encourage the Dig for Victory campaign, where lawns were turned into vegetable patches.

Now the virtue of eating carotene-rich plants is back in the international news. Following the withdrawal of Soviet bloc aid to Cuba, and the continuing American trade embargo, the island's economy has collapsed and malnutrition is rife. This week, the Cuban authorities have warned that there are already cases of vitamin A deficiency blindness, and have issued a list of those weeds and cultivated plants whose leaves, usually either ignored or discarded, are rich sources of carotene.

The earliest signs of vitamin A deficiency are night blindness, and a loss of ability to match colour. Actual loss of sight from vitamin A deficiency is called xerophthalmia,



and is the next stage of the disease, when irreversible damage is done to both the conjunctiva and the cornea. Children are particularly at risk and Cuba is not alone in this problem: xerophthalmia is the major cause of blindness in the developing world.

Carotene is metabolised in the body to vitamin A, so that if a diet is deficient in vitamin A-rich foods such as eggs, cream, fish oil and liver, that can be compensated by increasing the intake of the carotene-rich vegetables. Vitamin A deficiency is usually only part of a general vitamin deficiency. The effects are exacerbated by a diet in which too little protein and fat interferes with the absorption and storage of available vitamin A.

Breast cancer experts want X-ray tests every two years

Closing the screening gap

At the third international conference on breast screening, held in Cambridge recently, Dr Laszlo Tabar, a Swedish radiologist who is a renowned expert, questioned the British health department policy of recommending screening for women over 50 once every three years. In *General Practitioner* magazine, Dr Tabar says, "What it comes down to is that either you do screening well, or not at all". He recommends screening this age group every 18 months or two years.

It is becoming increasingly accepted by British specialists that for women who are pre-menopausal and who belong to a high-risk group, a three-year interval is far too long. In the younger breast, the cancer develops more quickly and, as the breast is denser and therefore the X-ray (the mammogram) more difficult to interpret, more insidiously.

The College of Radiologists has recently advised against the wholesale screening of younger, pre-menopausal women. Screening should be reserved, it suggests, for those who are known to be at a greater risk than the average. It is unlikely that anyone would disagree with the college's other recommendation, that if a woman feels a suspicious lump no time should be lost waiting for a mammogram: she should be sent immediately to a surgeon.

The college's views on pre-menopausal breast screening, however, are very much more controversial. It is understood that apart from the overall desire to reduce exposure to radiation there was a feeling at the college that too many women suffered anxiety because an equivocal mammogram resulted in unnecessary surgery or an unhappy few months until a repeat X-ray is possible. Cytopathologists are the doctors and

FNA is a simple procedure in which a very fine needle is inserted into the suspicious area, as seen on the X-ray film, or the palpable lump, so that cells may be withdrawn for examination.

Surprisingly, many screening centres which use mammography and ultrasound, the diagnostic imaging techniques, either have no access to FNA or have not yet accepted its value.

Dr Ian Ellis, a consultant cytopathologist at Nottingham City hospital, says: "Finding a breast lump generates an extremely high level of anxiety which can be reduced by rapid diagnosis. The use of mammography and ultrasound coupled with FNA in doubtful cases has proved to be a very successful and quick diagnostic procedure. The tests can be carried out at the first visit to the breast clinic, and the results can be made available quickly."

Like Dr Tabar, Dr Ellis thought that a three-year interval between screenings in the older woman was too long. Dr Ellis told *The Times* that 18 months would be ideal, but he expected that policy to be deemed too financially costly, and that a compromise of a two-year gap between screens might be acceptable. But for those at maximum risk, younger women with a family history of breast cancer, perhaps, he felt that even a two-year interval between screenings was excessive.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

scientists who analyse the body's cells under the microscope to detect malignant change. The British Society for Clinical Cytology accepts that while the majority of women screened are reassured on receiving a normal report, the comparatively few who are asked to come back after six months may suffer severe anxiety. To overcome this problem, the cytopathologists advocate a wider use of immediate fine needle aspiration, FNA.



Breath of air is a wheeze

THE British addiction to sleeping with windows open was condemned as being medically foolhardy a decade or two ago.

Inhalation of cold, damp night air not only predisposes people to developing chronic bronchitis but it can precipitate asthma, and, in those with suspect coronary arteries, induce angina, or even bring on a heart attack.

It is the air temperature which is important to maintaining health, and it is therefore possible for a patient to be in danger however cosy they may feel beneath their duvets.

Conversely, the health experts' argument had been accepted that a well-ventilated workplace kept the workforce alert and prevented headaches, dry sore throats and excessive tiredness, symptoms which are often attributed to a stuffy atmosphere.

Recent research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* casts doubt on this. During a six-week period, 1,500 office workers were questioned about their symptoms, and during this time, the ventilation was constantly changed without their knowledge, altering the degree of "stuffyness".

Even though the amount of fresh air admitted varied hugely, it made no difference to the workforce's symptoms.

Altered states of understanding



Fifty years ago, Albert Hoffman (above) took the first LSD trip.

Louis Appleby charts its route since then

Fifty years ago tomorrow Albert Hoffman, a Swiss chemist working with lysergic acid diethylamide, accidentally absorbed some through his fingertips and discovered its power to induce hallucinations in minute doses. Two days later he swallowed some deliberately, and the LSD trip was born.

The anniversary is being marked in various ways around the world, including a celebration in London's Hyde Park on Sunday. It will be a day of nostalgia for the drug and the ideas that flourished in its heyday in the 1960s: self-knowledge through psychedelia, understanding the mind by scrambling its senses.

But although the LSD culture, once so avant-garde, will look simply quaint, the drug and modern psychiatric research have more in common than one might suspect.

The research potential of this novel substance was immediately obvious. Hallucinations are a central feature of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, and the hope was that the actions of LSD could reveal something about the cause of such ailments.

A period of study followed. LSD's effects on the brain were shown to be numerous. Altered mood states, from apprehension to elation, to despair, frequently occurred, as did illogical or suspicious thoughts. Sounds and colours were intensified or distorted, and the sense of time disrupted.



Icons of the acid age: the Rolling Stones at Altamont in 1969, captured in the film *Gimme Shelter*. LSD was most successful as a recreational drug

The most striking effects were visual: objects seemed to move, warp or shrink, and vivid hallucinations paraded through the mind.

In the two or three decades following its discovery everything about LSD was unearthed except the most important points — how it worked and what it signified.

The way the drug caused perceptual disturbance remained a mystery. Although it was found to suppress nerve pathways in the brain containing a neurotransmitter called serotonin, exactly how interfering with this area of brain physiology led to such a panoply of mental symptoms was never clarified. And even though the drug produced experiences also found in mental illness, there were important differences that cast

doubt on LSD as a clue to the chemistry of madness. For one thing, most people with schizophrenia do not see anything unusual — they hear voices threatening them or commenting on what they do. And the paranoid delusions that are common in schizophrenia — elaborate beliefs of being watched or plotted against — were not reproduced by LSD. Nor was the fragmentation of thought and language, nor the feeling of being controlled by some outside force.

So scientific research interest faded, and was replaced by a clinical use of the drug that was supposed to be therapeutic. The idea never really caught on in Britain, but in the United States LSD was given to aid psychotherapy. Deeper personal insights were said to arise from its mind-expanding

powers. It was then only a short step to recreational use.

Looked at from the vantage point of the 1990s, LSD has taught us far less about the secrets of the individual than about the fashions of the society that dabbled in it.

There was nothing new in the notion that altered states of mind could reveal the inner self — psychoanalysis was built on the idea — but the 1960s embraced it like no other era. Such an ingenious belief could only have existed at a time when the drug culture was itself relatively innocent. As faith in LSD declined, so the social context of drug-taking shifted: linked to poverty, disaffected youth and eventually AIDS, drugs have become more dangerous.

Although no single scientific advance can be attributed to Hoffman's hallucinogen, the brain systems where LSD was thought to exert its effect now attract huge academic interest: serotonin has become the main focus of research into depression and other psychiatric disorders.

Anti-depressant drugs appear to elevate mood by altering the way nerve cells communicate with each other in the brain pathways that regulate emotion. Electrical impulses pass from one cell to another by the release of transmitter chemicals, and anti-depressants enhance the activity of these compounds, either by preventing them from being destroyed or by magnifying the response of the receiver cells. It seems likely that a number of neuro-

transmitters influence mood, but current attention is all on serotonin and the drugs that boost its effects.

The same drugs can also be used to suppress anxiety, and have been shown to moderate the cycle of bingeing and vomiting in bulimia and to improve the symptoms of agoraphobia and obsessive neurosis. Recently evidence has emerged that serotonin is also responsible for controlling impulsive behaviour and that suicidal acts may at times be related to malfunctioning serotonin mechanisms.

The promise of LSD, like its impact on the senses, may have been illusory, but, as is often true of illusions, there was something real behind it.

● The author is senior lecturer in psychiatry at Manchester University.

Is psychotherapy all in the mind?

New research casts doubt on one of modern man's medical totems

Psychotherapy is one of Britain's most recession-proof industries. More than 100,000 people are now estimated to be receiving the "talking cure", and demand has outstripped supply. But the boom has taken place in the absence of hard evidence that psychotherapy works.

A review of research into the efficacy of psychotherapy by Professor Gavin Andrews, an Australian psychiatrist, published in this month's *British Journal of Psychiatry*, reaches a bleak conclusion. The dom-

inant practice in Britain, dynamic psychotherapy — which focuses on past relationships and explores them in the context of the present relationship with the therapist — is, he found, no better than ordinary routine clinical care.

British researchers disagree. Members of Sheffield university's psychotherapy research programme, funded by the Medical Research Council, believe that the evidence that psychotherapy works is now so well-established it would be unethical to perform placebo studies. "We would have difficulty expecting people who might be severely depressed to wait for treatment," says Dr Shirley Reynolds, a clinical psychologist.

Many treatments in medicine lack formal proof of their efficacy, but concern about the cost and safety of psychotherapy makes the demand for proof more urgent. At £25 to £35 a 50-minute session, it does not come cheap, and patients may have several sessions a week for many years.

There is also the risk of harm. The therapeutic relationship is intimate and therapists can influence their patients' values. There are well-documented cases of sexual abuse. In one study, 10 per cent of doctors and other mental health workers reported that their own therapy had harmed them, suggesting that the number of patients harmed but who do not complain might be considerable.

Demand for psychotherapy has been fuelled by the breakdown of family life, increasing solitariness and the tougher demands of modern life. People look to their therapists for what is missing in their personal lives. At the same time, though, people have become disillusioned with mainstream psychiatry because, although it has made great leaps in the treatment of severe illness, it has contributed almost nothing to solving the ordinary problems associated with relationships, work and families.

But measuring the effectiveness of therapy is tricky. Recovery from a physical illness is generally easy to spot, but recovery in psychotherapeutic terms — which may amount only to a kind of growing up — is harder to judge. For this reason there is growing interest in Britain in short-term treatments focused on specific problems which can be tested by questionnaire.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is backing the development of cognitive behavioural therapy, a new technique developed in the past five years which seeks to help the patient see the world in more optimistic ways. "It is a matter of describing the glass as half-full rather than half-empty," Dr Reynolds says.

General psychiatrists see the technique as being more applicable to the sort of problems their patients have. But a forthcoming study by the Sheffield university researchers will show that short-term, dynamic psychotherapy lasting as little as eight sessions is equally effective. "People tend to favour whichever camp they are in. Their allegiance tends to colour their views," Dr Reynolds says.

Professor Andrews, who has spent more than ten years investigating the outcome of psychotherapy, claims no allegiance. He eschews therapy, preferring good clinical care, because of its "breadth and flexibility".

JEREMY LAURANCE

Primal scream gets a hearing

Lost for words? Voice therapists can help to sound out the hidden you

cut ourselves off from our primal roots. Our first expression when we come into the world is a cry, and it is by crying and screaming that we learn to make ourselves heard. As we get older, however, we suppress the groans, grunts and screams of babyhood, repressing many feelings that cannot be expressed in words. Until words come into things, when we're around six months old, the language of cooing and babbling is universal. A child, sitting on a bench, listens to the tone in: "You just move from there..." and responds to the threat in the voice rather than the words, which dare it to move.

But where are the grunts and groans of our ancestors? They can sometimes be heard during exorcisms, sex or speaking in tongues — or, more socially, in spontaneous

expressions like "Oooh!" "Aahh!" and "Mmm!"

Freud produced the "talking" cure, but his student, Wilhelm Reich, broke away, emphasising the importance of body and breathing in therapy. It was no longer what you said, but the way that you said it.

Then came Alexander Lowen, who emphasised the importance of the scream, leading to the kind of therapy developed by Arthur Janov in the 1960s.

Alfred Wolfsohn's story makes the most fascinating reading in the history of voice



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

his memories, he became convinced that if he could only repeat these sounds, he could exorcise them. Thus he took himself to various singing teachers who did not mind him screaming in their studios.

He came to London and

therapy. In the trenches during the first world war, Wolfsohn heard "screams, groans and cacophonous pleas which were pitched higher and lower than he would ever have thought physically possible". After the war, haunted by

started teaching here, with the aim of making Jung's dreams audible through the human voice. One of his pupils wrote of the sounds he produced in his clients: "In the beginning it was a squeaking and a squeezing, a screaming and a peeping; and out of this developed a different kind of beauty, the beauty of the dared expression."

Wolfsohn felt that training voices to sing within specific ranges was damaging, and he trained one of his pupils to sing eight octaves — eventually she could sing every part in the *Magic Flute*. One of his clients was Rabbi Lionel Blue. When he worked with him, "Every-

thing came out, ugly sounds, beautiful sounds, cracks, groans, screeches and a multitude of different characters. But it was never a process of taking part, but of putting

together all the pieces into a whole: a whole that I had never experienced before — and this whole was me."

Today, a part of voice therapy is called psychophones, which Newman defines as "the process of conveying psychological information in the form of non-verbal vocal sound". The therapist tries to put the client in touch with a variety of archetypal characters, making them feel more in harmony with themselves. Voice therapy concentrates almost exclusively on the feelings expressed by sounds rather than words.

It is a therapy that particularly suits people who may find that fluency with words inhibits the expression and recognition of deeper, darker and probably uncharted aspects of their personalities.

● The Association for Voice Movement Therapy, 7c Ballards Lane, London N3 1UX. The Singing Cure: An Introduction to Voice Movement Therapy (£11.99, Rider).



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TRAVEL NEWS

Croatia papers over the cracks

Desperately in need of foreign currency, Croatia is trying to lure back tourists to its resorts, Ray Clancy reports

British tourists are being urged to return to Croatia for the first time since civil war engulfed the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

Phoenix Holidays, the British subsidiary of the Croatian tourist organisation Bemex Tours, is organising summer package holidays to Istria in the far north, which was untouched by the fighting. Although the area is unspoilt and attractive, the hotels and apartments are in need of renovation.

Many of the hotels appear in the company's brochure as gleaming new complexes similar to the best in the Mediterranean. The reality, however, is often disappointing. At the Punta Verudela complex just outside Pula, which used to be one of the most popular holiday destinations, weeds are growing out of the window-boxes, paint is peeling from the walls and the apartments are drab and unimaginative. Vladimir Damaska, the complex's marketing director, is big on smiles and promises. "We need some paint here and there, everything is being made ready," he says. He confidently predicts that the swimming pool will be free of slime when the season's first tourists arrive at the end of April.

Before the war, 500,000 British tourists a year flocked to some of the most scenic resorts on the Adriatic. So far, even with the fresh drive to win back desperately needed foreign currency, the company has received only 300 advance bookings.

Along the coast at Rovinj, the locals are optimistically preparing for a "bumper" year. But their

harbour, polluted by waste from a nearby tobacco factory, needs a clean-up before the luxury yachts return and the resort can reclaim its old nickname, St Tropez.

The Hotel Park, a concrete monstrosity, has splendid views over to the old town and Katarina island. When the war broke out, Phoenix had difficulty persuading the British tourists to leave. "We had to get them to sign a disclaimer; they were literally holding on to the door handles by their fingernails," David Skillecorn, Phoenix's sales manager, says.

Tourism has always been an important source of cash and is now Croatia's main income after shipbuilding. But the country has a long way to go if it wishes to see British holidaymakers return. Thousands of refugees were put up in the deserted hotels. Now they have all been moved to camps. Damir Gaspic, sales executive with the Jadran Tourist group, says: "Quite simply, if you want tourists there is no place for refugees."

ask where the refugees are in Istria and you are met with blank stares. Residents do not want to admit that there are hundreds of displaced people in the area. In Porec two of the hotels are still full of refugees, mostly from the Vukovar area. Their board is paid for by the Croatian government.

One of the curious things about Croatia is its lack of individual cultural identity. It is Italian, German, French and even Spanish all rolled into one. The culture and tastes are a hotchpotch of different

civilisations, a legacy of constant invasion since before Roman times. When it comes to package tours the accommodation cannot compete with, for example, Spain or Greece, but the lack of modernisation has its compensations. The bars and cafés verge on the exotic. The drinks are robust and the people welcoming. Parts of the resorts are charmingly untouched.

According to Neven Jerkovic, regional director for Bemex Tours, the British are desperately needed because they spread their holidays throughout the season, unlike the Germans and Italians who tend to all go on holiday in August. In conjunction with Croatia Airlines the company has arranged seven flights a week from Manchester, Heathrow and Gatwick to Pula in an attempt to rally the British.

But further down the coast the holiday resorts are no-go areas. Serb snipers lurk in the hills around Dubrovnik. The Dalmatian coast is featured in the Phoenix brochure, although at present the company has no intention of sending tourists to the area. "It is featured in our brochure because the situation could change by the middle or end of the season," Mr Skillecorn says. "Customers asking about the area will be offered an alternative holiday in Istria."

Croatia has been relatively successful in sorting out its economy, but the threat of further fighting is still there. Canadian blue berets who have just completed a six-month tour of duty along the Croatian-Bosnian border report that there are huge ammunition stores on both sides.



Old-style charm: parts of Croatia are untouched, much to the modern tourists' delight

VIEWPOINT

Stansted left in the lurch

Swift action is needed, Robert McCrindle says

After years of agonising, the government chose to back the development of Stansted as London's third airport. Now, following American Airlines' decision to pull out, the multi-million pound investment of BAA plc threatens to become a white elephant, and ministers are refusing to come to its aid.

They do not seem to realise that if Stansted is a flop, the search for further runway space around London will have to start all over again.

The decision by American Airlines to withdraw Stansted's one transatlantic service is a body-blow to the Essex airport, even though TWA has shown an early interest in flying in. The domino effect on the other scheduled services to European destinations could be serious, leaving little more than charter services. Clearly some drastic action is called for and the government has a role to play.

First, however, it is fair to question whether American Airlines, and indeed BAA, have yet adequately sold the benefits of Stansted or effectively tapped the catchment areas around the airport.

There are thousands of travellers, especially businessmen, who could be persuaded to use Stansted, even with its present restricted service. The real breakthrough, however, would be the establishment of transatlantic services, which would attract British and American passengers, including those heading from America to other European cities. Probably all that is needed is fewer than half a dozen flights



Sir Robert: body-blow

to American destinations. At least three US airlines are anxious to start such services, but cannot get permission from the British authorities to do so. The reason is that Stansted is classified, along with Gatwick and Heathrow, as a London airport and all the entitlement to fly has been used up by Delta, American and United Airlines. Ministers are at pains to say that these airlines are free to transfer a service from Heathrow or Gatwick.

So without prejudice to the wider debate going on with the US authorities about access to Heathrow, why does the government not detach Stansted and define it as a provincial airport alongside Birmingham and Manchester?

That would almost certainly attract new services by the big three US airlines. If the government insists that no action be taken until the UK/US bilateral agreement is renegotiated, it may be too late.

Sir Robert McCrindle is a former MP and a consultant to the leisure industry.

TRAVELOGS

Adventure by rail

ACORN Activities is running a unique journey on a Welsh railway line threatened with closure. A Class 47/3 locomotive with wood-paneled first-class Pullman coaches will take passengers over 12 summits, through seven tunnels and across two viaducts on the Central Wales Line.

The train will travel from Hereford south to Llandrindod Wells along the Hean of Wales Line, and then back via Ludlow. The trip includes champagne breakfast, buffet lunch at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells, and cream tea. The journey is on Saturday, May 1 and costs £125 per person (0432 357335 for details).

Half-price Caribbean
ELEGANT Resorts is offering two weeks in the Caribbean for the price of one. Between May 8 and 19 and July 24 to September 29, 14 nights at the Coral Reef Club in Barbados start at £945. Elegant Resorts has similar offers at the Calabash, Grenada, the Royal St Lucia, St Lucia, and Roundhill, Jamaica (details: 0244 329671).

On the ball

IN RESPONSE to the interest generated by television coverage of Italian league football, Italitour (071-383 3886) is running a series of football packages to Rome and Milan with flights, accommodation and guaranteed match tickets.

Something fishy

THE first Tana Deep Sea Fishing tournament is planned for Mauritius from October 22 to 29. Tana Specialist Travel (0789 414200) is offering nine-night packages — October 22-31 — for £1,275 per person, based on four anglers in a boat and shared twin rooms. The price includes flights, transfers, half-board accommodation, three full- and two half-days' fishing.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

Leading the pack

BA is wooing business travellers by encouraging them to relax in the air

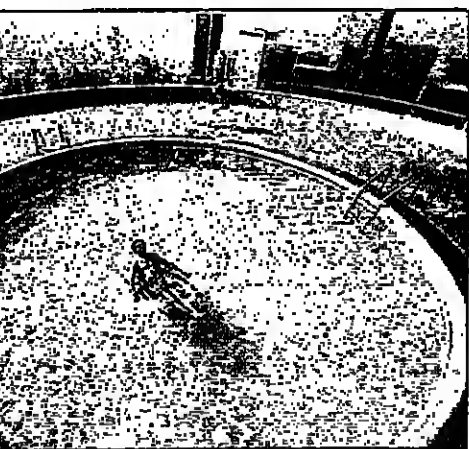
British Airways today launches the latest phase in its drive to attract first and business class passengers with new services, a £20 million advertising campaign and the extension of its first class sleeper seat service to 30 intercontinental routes.

From today, sleeper services will be available on flights to and from India and the Middle East and on services to London from Africa and North America. The company this week also launched a new health-conscious travel programme with the slogan, Well-being in the Air. The programme includes healthy in-flight meals, exercise, alcohol-free drinking and aromatherapy products for skin care and stress relief.

The packages — the sleeper service is extended from a pilot programme on the London to New York route — are part of BA's £100 million marketing programme aimed at premier service travellers. First class, Club World and Executive Club passengers are being targeted because they yield higher profits than those in economy class. The first class return fare to New York is nearly £4,000 while economy fares are nearer £200.

The main thrust of the programme is to add value to business and first class travel at a time when many companies are down-grading their executives' travel arrangements. As well as launching the sleeper service, BA has built a new lounge pavilion at Heathrow's Terminal 4 and an arrivals lounge at Gatwick. It has refitted Concorde and improved facilities for Club World passengers.

BA's Well-being in the Air programme, which begins today, aims to improve travel for passengers on long-haul flights. David Charlton, BA's group brand manager, says: "Talking to passengers has proved their ideal flight does not necessarily



Up on the roof: a shot from BA's new advertisement

involve an office-in-the-sky. What they really want from us is an environment where they are comfortable enough to arrive in good shape — alert and focused, calm and relaxed."

From today, passengers will be given practical advice on preparing for their flight: for example, wearing loose-fitting clothes and going for a brisk walk before boarding are recommended. Passengers using the new lounge pavilion in Terminal 4 are encouraged to take a shower before a long flight.

Passengers have been given the option of meals that are lighter, low in salt, sugar and dairy products. There is also the option of alcohol-free drinks to reduce the dehydrating effects of dry cabin air.

A range of aromatherapy products is provided to Club World and First Class passengers to ward off the itchy, dry skin that comes from spending hours in the low pressure atmosphere of an aircraft cabin. The ethos of BA's new approach

is being promoted in a new commercial, made by Saatchi & Saatchi, which is launched today. The advertisement will emphasise quality of life and the notion that businessmen should consider flying as a time for reflection and creative thinking. It features as its sound track a sixties soul hit by the Drifters, *Up on the Roof*.

The original Club World advert in 1988 focused on a businessman flying in the red-eye to face a boardroom of sharp operators expecting him to be a "lamb to the slaughter".

A BA spokesman said its latest campaign was far more traditional than the world branding it has promoted most recently. "It shows a great deal more of the product. The last campaign, which we called 'feeling good' was more to do with global awareness. This one is aimed at the business traveller because of the state of the business market."

Dries de Vaal, an independent leisure consultant from Touche Ross's Greene Belfield-Smith division, said BA was ahead of the game in its promotion of in-flight relaxation but that other airlines would inevitably follow. "The ideas are not particularly new. On the one hand, BA is reflecting what is happening in society generally, with the growth in health consciousness."

"On the other, I suspect BA has recognised that anyone in first or business class finds it virtually impossible to work. There are innumerable disruptions and you don't want somebody eavesdropping or looking at your papers. I don't think other airlines are paying as much attention to this, but BA is pumping so much money into it that it will succeed. Then the others will have to follow."

PETER VICTOR

Fresh protection for package tours

Thousands of firms offering package tours are now trading legally. From April 1 it has been a legal requirement that all package holiday retailers provide financial protection for holidaymakers. Many, mostly small operators, do not understand the new rules. Others are not even aware of them, Peter Victor writes.

Under the EC directive on package travel, package tour operators must have a bond, insurance policy or escrow account to cover refunds or the cost of allowing people to complete their holidays should the company go bankrupt.

According to the trade department, there are about 20,000 package organisers in the UK. Of these, about 600 are bonded through the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL scheme. Another 700 are Abta

bonded and 130 are bonded through the Association of Independent Tour Operators (Aito). Aito said that it has been bombarded with calls from companies asking for help. Holidaymakers in the past have tended to book holidays through whichever firm was cheapest. "They didn't consider why a bonded firm might be more expensive than a non-bonded company, although of course when the company collapsed and they found they had lost their money they would kick themselves," an Aito spokeswoman said.

Aito has a directory of bonded members and Abta provides a similar service.

Abta 0891 202520 (premium rate, 49p per minute peak rate, 36p per minute off-peak); Aito 081-744 9250; ATOL 071-832 5620

Something nasty by the seashore

Jersey Tourism has been criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) because the Channel Islands' beaches are not always as spotless as it claimed. Two local residents objected to a national press advertisement placed by Jersey Tourism which said "our beaches are always spotless" and added "all our golden beaches are scrubbed and rinsed twice by clear blue water".

The complainants objected to these claims on the grounds that on seven recent occasions large quantities of untreated sewage had poured out to bathing beaches, in particular at Le Hocq.

Jersey Tourism provided test data to show that overall all Jersey's beaches passed the EC Imperative Standard for faecal coliform organisms. The overall rate of compliance at 11 sampling locations was 81.8 per cent. Since the summer of

last year, when those tests were carried out, a new ultra-violet sewage treatment plant has been commissioned.

The ASA upheld the complaints, though, because some samples showed "significant concentrations of faecal coliforms above the EC standard".

Other complaints upheld against travel companies reported in the latest ASA cases reported yesterday include one against Inghams Travel of south-west London for describing an Austrian hotel as "newly renovated" when it had only partly been refurbished; and one against Kuoni Travel of Dorking for showing in an illustration of a St Lucia hotel a sandy beach which had been covered with a barricade of rocks two years previously.

ROBIN YOUNG

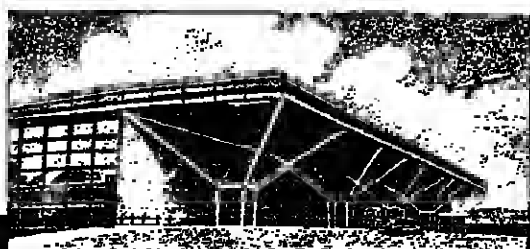
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فَكَذَّبْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

In an insecure world, all-inclusive holidays that mean just that are booming. But, Harvey Elliott reports, not everybody is happy

Pay before you fly – and not a penny more

Cost-conscious British holiday-makers are avoiding rising prices caused by the fall in the value of the pound and rampant inflation in many parts of the world by booking all-inclusive holidays.

Pioneered by American tour companies, all-inclusive packages, as the name implies, include everything – flights, full-board accommodation, unlimited drinks, sports and entertainment – for a set fee paid before departure. Once the customer has handed over his cash to the travel agent he need not put his hand in his pocket again.

All-inclusive holidays are now widespread throughout the Caribbean and are spreading rapidly to parts of Africa and the Far East. They are proving particularly popular this year because of the fall in the value of the pound against the American dollar.

Tour operators book hotels during the height of the summer for the next year and are able to negotiate highly competitive rates. All hotels in the Caribbean set their prices in dollars and, last August, when the dollar was \$1.80 to the pound, an average week in a Caribbean hotel cost \$880, or £488. Now the dollar is worth only \$1.55, so the same package holiday would cost £570.

Some of the larger tour operators bought dollars "forward", and were therefore able to guarantee that they would not have to add a surcharge to the original brochure price, whatever happened to the exchange rate. Others have been forced to pass on much of the increase to customers.

Hoteliers were acutely aware that such swingeing increases could lead to a slump in bookings and also absorbed a proportion of the rise in price for normal package holiday-makers booking bed and breakfast or half-board accommodation. However, they then added large amounts to the cost of drinks from the bar, occasional snacks and water sports to try to recoup some of their losses.

But all-inclusive hotels could not follow suit. They had negotiated rates with tour operators last August which they were obliged to adhere to, regardless of any change in the exchange rate. Because the package included all drinks, whether alcoholic or soft, and all entertainment and sports, they could not increase the prices of those either.

As a result, clients who booked an all-inclusive package and paid for it in advance are fully protected against price rises of any kind. Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, says that as a result of the



Drinking in the good life: 12,000 British tourists are expected to visit the Dominican Republic this year, up 50 per cent on last year

bargains now available on all-inclusive holidays, together with their "no surcharge" guarantee, the number of bookings being made for next summer has risen by up to 40 per cent over the past year.

The biggest rise has been in the Dominican Republic, which will welcome 12,000 British tourists

this year – half as many again as last year. The cheapest all-inclusive holiday in the island – including flights, accommodation, meals, drinks and entertainment of all kinds – costs £629 during May and June, with £525 for a two-week bed and breakfast package.

"When you consider that those

booking bed and breakfast would have to buy at least one, and probably two meals a day, pay for their drinks, water sports and entertainment it must work out far cheaper to take an all-inclusive package," says Steve Garley of Thomson.

So popular have the all-inclusive

packages become that some hotels in St Lucia and Antigua are already sold out until the end of September. In general an all-inclusive package costs about £1,000, with most hotels concentrated in the Caribbean, especially Jamaica, which is as popular with Americans as Majorca is with the British.

"When you know precisely how much a holiday is going to cost before you even leave home, why bother to leave the hotel?"

Martin Grass of Super Clubs, a leading all-inclusive chain which has five properties in Jamaica, said that the boom began last year, with a 30 per cent increase in bookings. The chain is anticipating a similar increase this year.

He says Super Clubs is attracting growing interest from holidaymakers in Japan and continental Europe, as the message spreads that there are enormous savings to be made.

The disadvantage of an all-inclusive package, however, is that tourists are cocooned in one hotel in which everything is provided and rarely venture into the local community. This in turn can cause resentment among local traders who rely on holiday-makers for their income, but now find them remaining firmly in their air-conditioned, sanitised and packaged hotels.

"There is a great temptation never to venture out," Mr Garley says. "When even scuba-diving is provided in the original cost and when you know precisely how much a holiday is going to cost you before you even leave home, why bother to leave the hotel?"

New resorts in Kenya and the Far East are now being opened and it is expected that within a few years a "package" holiday will become exactly what it names implies.

Economy hotels in fast lane for Channel tunnel

ECONOMY hotels are springing up all over France, providing motorists with the choice of staying in a room which can cost as little as £16 per night for a family of three. But the la belle France image of little auberges with beamed ceilings, gingham-checked tablecloths and ruddy-cheeked hosts should swiftly be forgotten. This type of lodging is for travellers who do not want to deviate when driving from A to B but need to rest their heads on a clean pillow for the night.

This class of accommodation is to the hotel world what fast food is to haute cuisine. Typically, a room will consist of a double bed, with a metal-framed bunk bed slung

Four new chains are offering inexpensive rooms for families travelling French roads

laterally across its head where a child may sleep. There may or may not be private toilet facilities. A colour television set on a wall bracket seems to be the norm. The rooms are small but comfortable, with fitted carpets and bright fabrics to cheer up the frugal surroundings. Aesthetics have taken a back seat due to the unitary concept which makes the hotels cheap to build, run and to stay in.

On arrival you are also more likely to be greeted by a dispensing machine than a receptionist. Front

doors are manned at certain times only. Outside these periods "le patron" is an automaton on the front porch with a keyboard and screen. "He" will take your credit card, allocate a room and dispense a numeric code for you to gain entry. Breakfast (around 22 Ffr extra per person), too, is likely to be distributed automatically.

The McDonald's of France's fast-bed world is undoubtedly Formule 1, which describes itself as "the most affordable hotel chain". It has been taking advantage of its pole position by opening

new pit stops at the rate of one a week for the last five years. It now has 272 outlets in France and is branching out to England (at Doncaster, Peterborough, Tees-side and Hull), Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and South Africa.

Formule 1 is part of the Accor hotel group which operates under the names Sofitel and Pullman at the top end of its range, with Novotel and Ibis in between.

So successful has Accor's experience been with Formule 1 that the group recently began to develop a

second chain, Etap, to compete with it. This has eight outlets at the moment, offering "two-star comfort at one-star prices", with another nine planned.

The difference is that whereas prices for Formule 1 and its competitors are fixed, no matter whether one, two or three people are occupying a room, Etap charges according to occupancy, season and location. Prices run from 175 Ffr (£21) to 195 Ffr (£23).

Two other newcomers in the race to capture the bottom end of the market are Mister Bed, with

18 hotels and four more opening soon, and Villages Hotel (eight open, three to come). Their slightly higher prices, 149 Ffr and 135 Ffr respectively, seem justified by the provision of private toilet facilities. Though Formule 1 rooms have a wash basin, guests must be prepared to share toilets and showers. The logos of all four chains are becoming familiar sights on the outskirts of major towns. With the opening of the Channel tunnel, more Britons are likely to be motoring through France in the near future and be lured by their welcoming glow.

TONY ROCCA

0, BELLES NUITS...

Mister Bed HOTEL

Sign of the times: cheap beds from a French chain

Europe's battle of the sexes

Nearly four out of five people believe that travel facilities in Europe cater equally for men and women, according to an Official Airline Guide survey. Peter Victor writes.

The Germans seemed particularly satisfied, with 85 per cent of respondents agreeing that there was no discrimination, compared with 79 per cent overall. The Germans also thought that business hotels were geared to women's needs: some 83 per cent agreed against an average of 50 per cent among all respondents. Interestingly, 57 per cent of women agreed with this statement compared with 50 per cent of men.

Some 51 per cent overall agreed that airport business lounges tend to be designed for male travellers. Britain and Nordic countries were against the average with only 17 per cent of Nordic respondents and 14 per cent of Britons agreeing that hotel rooms were geared to female needs.

The survey sampled 4,500 subscribers to OAG, the International Air Passengers Association and Wineschiffs Woche business traveller database. Some 718 usable questionnaires were returned.

● OAG, Bridge House, 4 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EX, 0732 352 668.

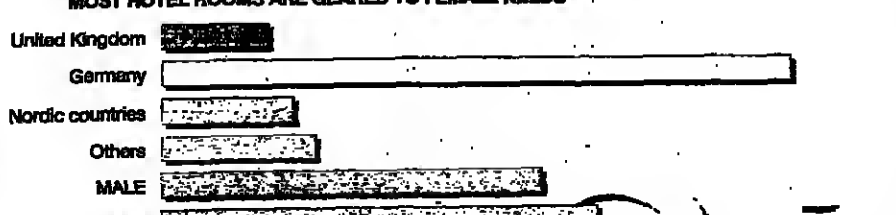
SEX DISCRIMINATION AND THE BUSINESS TRAVELLER

PERCEIVED SEX DISCRIMINATION

EUROPEAN BUSINESS TRAVEL FACILITIES CATER EQUALLY FOR MEN AND WOMEN



MOST HOTEL ROOMS ARE GEARED TO FEMALE NEEDS



AIRPORT LOUNGES TEND TO BE DESIGNED FOR MALE TRAVELLERS



A drop of the hard stuff in Germany; and a sip of sludge at Heathrow

In the best of spirits

Germany, rather than France, can offer the best buys for travellers wanting to stock up on cheap spirits when on the Continent. Lager-lovers bent on buying in quantity in Germany often complain about not finding enough in light, easy-to-transport tins. Most German retailers still sell mainly in weighty bottles and operate an expensive deposit system which makes purchasing purposeless for foreign visitors.

However, those driving back to the UK who do manage to locate tins – and who have enough space to carry them – can, if travelling in pairs, save over £200. There is no legally enforceable limit but the guide lines suggest a maximum of 110 litres per person.

In Germany, big-name gin sells at almost the same price as Scotch. Polish and Russian vodka can be picked up for about £6 but German distillers undercut the imports with adequate vodka of their own at about £4.50 per bottle. They use brand names to suggest Muscovite origins. A big domestic seller for years has been

Gorbatschow. Now it has a new, just-as-political competitor: Yelstin.

The No. 1 German-made drink to take home in quantity is, of course, beer. Nationally-known brands can be found for 90 pfennigs (36p) a litre, or less, almost 30 per cent below the price charged by competitors from Alsace. A litre of equivalent quality and strength sells for about £2 on London supermarket shelves.

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German outlets offer an abundance of cognac, champagne, chateau and table wines, but not at French prices or in the same vast variety. Experienced explorers of the new "single" market still buy French in France.

ROBERT HAEGER

A cup of estuary, please

Travellers using Heathrow have a choice they can have cappuccino coffee of a "very high standard indeed", or a cappuccino resembling Thames mud. Pies tasted recently at Heathrow outlets have varied from "wonderful" to "tasteless". Such verdicts go toward the compilation of the Egon Ronay Ratings, awarding symbols for good food, good service and pleasant atmosphere to the airport's 30 catering outlets. The ratings are revised every three months and are printed in Egon Ronay Recommends, a magazine offered free throughout Heathrow.

Heathrow is thought to be the only airport in the world to have a public rating system for its cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants, though the scheme is shortly to be extended to Gatwick. The Ronay team's latest Heathrow reports include such verdicts as: "The cappuccino contravened the Trade Descriptions Act: it was a sludge-like liquid resembling the Thames estuary"; and "A leaden quiche with grossly thick pastry... should be removed from sale immediately." Items thus criticised usually disappear promptly from the menu.

At present, the top-rated Heathrow outlet is The Granary in Terminal 3, which scores a maximum six points. At the bottom of the league, with one point apiece, come the Seafood & Oyster Bar and the Upper Cruise snack bar, both beyond passport control in Terminal 4.

ROBIN YOUNG

A bargain for tropical travellers

SIMPLY Tropix (081-875 1777) is offering special deals to the Far East, including 14 nights for the price of seven in Penang, Malaysia, upgrades, an extra night in Hong Kong and four free nights in Bangkok. Seven nights at Penang's Palm Beach hotel cost from £557 a person and 14 nights can be had for the same price. Trailfinders (071-938 3366) is offering direct flights to Singapore for £372 return. The fare is valid for travel from now until November 30, but must be booked this month.

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE package to the Pineapple Beach Club, Barbados, is

being offered by Caribbean Gold (081-741 8491) for £1,599. The 14-night trip includes flights from Manchester on May 10, meals, drinks, sports and taxes.

JETLIFE Holidays is going one better than companies that offer free car hire. It will actually pay travellers to Florida \$5 (£2) to keep their hire cars for a second week when they take 14-night breaks instead of seven nights. The deal, to Orlando, Miami and Tampa, means that two adults on a flydrive with

Dollar Rent-A-Car now pay £275 each for one week, and £273 for two weeks. (Jetlife 0322 614 801)

SAS is starting a twice-weekly service from Heathrow to Tromsø, Norway, 200 miles inside the Arctic circle. The 3½-hour flights – by DC-9 – will operate from Heathrow between May 27 and August 30.

Special fares, subject to government approval, include a £170 round-trip package for passengers who want to travel out and return the same night

to experience the midnight sun between May 20 and July 21. (SAS 071-734 6777).

EXPLORE Worldwide (0252 319448) is offering a ten-day tour in Ethiopia. The price, about £1,295, includes flights, all meals outside Addis Ababa, hotels, transport and guides. The first departure is on October 22.

A SPECIAL round-the-world fare which includes the Pacific Islands is being offered by STA Travel (071-937 1733) for £699.

The under-26 fare is valid for 12 months for departures before the end of June.

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Philip Howard



Journalists cannot afford omission, but authors may find it alluring

George Perec's last novel, *53 Days*, translated into English, has just been published, and reviewed, in Britain. As you would expect from such a cunning trickster of language, this is a damned elusive pimpernel of a literary thriller, full of cryptic clues and fiddling deconstruction. Perec is the funster who once wrote a novel, *La Disparition*, without ever using the letter E. That is called a lipogram; not a cheeky telegram like a gongoliam, but writing that leaves out (Greek: *leipein*) a letter.

This contorted literary form is surprisingly old and popular. It seems inconceivable to daily journalists, the careless short-distance sprinters of language, that we should make our dash for the deadline harder by such artificial obstacles. It is all we can do to get the paper out each night, and we do not need to invent extra hurdles, though we sometimes enliven our word factory with jokes. I tried to use "Andisestablishmentarianism" as a headline the other night. But the computer signalled that it would bust, i.e. break the limits of the column, by sending up two flashing stars and a capital T, which puzzled me at the time. One day I shall dish the machine by getting "Floccinaucinihilipilification" into a headline, or at any rate into a "standfirst" under the headline.

But there have always been writers who, instead of a quick sprint, preferred a marathon sabbat in blindfold with obstacles at irregular intervals along the track. They are sly and secretive scribblers, and the lipogram, which has primitive psychological and old linguistic roots, is one of their little games.

The Greek poet Lasus (born in Achaia in about 548 BC) wrote an ode to the Centaurs and a hymn to Ceres without once using the letter S, which must have stretched his powers of antonomasia (in the case of the lady, (In Greek, she was called Demeter).

Tryphiodorus from Egypt in the 3rd or 4th century AD wrote an epic poem in 24 books about the adventures of Odysseus. The letter A was banished from the first book which was called *Alpha* (on the principle of *lucus a non lucendo*, because there was not an alpha in it). His second book was named *Beta*, because it had no Bs. And so on through the alphabet. The game has something to do with an archetypal delight in the discovery of language.

Pierre Riga, a canon of Notre Dame at Rheims (who died about 1209), earned a great reputation by his versification of the entire bible, omitting a different letter from each chapter. In intervals of the trials and tribulations of life, and churning out 1,800 plays, Lope de Vega made time to write five novels, each of which omitted one of the five vowels in turn. In 1810 a French playwright named Rondon wrote his *Pièce sans A* for the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris. On the first night, Duval entered from one wing, Mengozzi from the other side. The first words the latter intoned were: *Ah, monsieur vous voilà*. The audience fell about and hissed their derision at this unconventional beginning to a play of no As. This gave the prompter time to set the actor right, with *Eh, monsieur vous voilà*. (When I was prompter once, an actor dried on the line, "Don't look at me like that," which made his repeated pathetic turns to the wings for help both jerky and ineffectual.)

Here is a contemporary lipogrammatist's version of "Mary had a Little Lamb" without Ss:

Mary had a little lamb.
With fleece a pale white hue.
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb kept her in view.
To academy he went with her,
Illegal, and quite rare.
He made the children laugh and play
To view a lamb in there.

There is obviously a wire crossed somewhere in the brains of lipogrammatists. In daily journalism, life is too short and the deadline too pressing. Our business is instant communication to be deciphered easily in unfavourable circumstances such as the Circle Line in the rush hour. But sprinters cannot help admiring the blindfolded sabbat of writing. Upon this basis I am going to show you how a hack in a hurry can tap words without using that most popular symbol in our national word hoard, and fifth symbol in our symbol list. Hack is drawn to lunacy of lipogram as fly to jam pot.

Sealing the Occupied Territories may be more than a temporary solution to violence, says Barbara Amiel

Peace, passports and a parcel of land

My most recent trip to Israel ended a month ago. After conversations from Nabulus to Gaza to Jerusalem, a feeling of utter helplessness set in. In the end one is forced to a conclusion: certain situations in the world, of which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one, are unlikely to allow two groups of people to occupy land in any form of civilised co-existence in this historical epoch — by which I mean our or our children's lifetimes.

The reasons for this are fruitless to canvass because they no longer matter. Either side can pound the table and cite grievances, but looking at countries such as the former Yugoslavia or the Middle East you have to face some realities. And asking whether they are noble or ignominious, wise or foolish, or can be ascribed more to the fault of one side than the other becomes pointless. All you can legitimately seek is the solution that will see the smallest number of people stabbed, mutilated or forced to live in what they consider subjugation.

After a series of brutal attacks on Israelis, the Israeli government sealed off the West Bank and Gaza. All around Israel is the notional Green Line that demarcates the Israel of before 1967 from that of today. On the outer side of it are the territories that King Hussein of Jordan lost when he joined Abdul Gammer Nasser in his ill-fated attempt to wipe Israel out in 1967.

In those territories sit the Palestinians: they curse the Israeli occupation that they Arab leaders brought upon them; they curse the soldiers who administer an occupation which by 20th-century standards is pretty much of a joke, but behind their curses is a genuine grievance: like any people they want their own passports and piece of land. Never mind that the Palestinians have said "no" to at least three plans from the 1937 Peel Commission on giving them a state; never mind that the name Palestine was a bit of Foreign Office romanticism claimed from the Romans. The Jews' claim to Palestine via Eastern Europe is a bit dodgy as well. We have all travelled a long way to get home.

This week an attempt is being made to restart the peace talks. The Palestinians have made the issue of the deportees (remember them?) a sticking point. The deportees are said to be members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). In the event of the PLO managing to negotiate a secular state with Israel, the blood-curdling clauses of the Hamas charter would instantly invoke war on the PLO. But as funding for the PLO dried up, Hamas gained more power in the refugee camps and the Territories. Now the PLO must take note of Hamas. Not only are the Muslim fundamentalist deportees on the agenda, but last week a representative of a group within Arafat's Fatah took credit for firing six-kilohertz rockets into Northern Israel. Arafat has to show Hamas he is still very keen on the armed struggle.

No doubt a formula will be found to

bring the Palestinians back to the peace table next week. This will probably include a scheduled return of the deportees and a (welcomed) renunciation of mass deportations by the Israelis. Yasser Arafat's ally Faisal al-Husseini will probably be put on the Palestinian peace delegation. In a bit of semantic hopscotch, there is a Palestinian peace team and a Palestinian delegation: the delegation can enter the room in which the talks are held, but the team does all the substantive work and has to sit outside. As a resident of East Jerusalem, Hussein, like Hanan Ashrawi, is ineligible for the peace delegation (which is restricted to residents of the Territories).

What good will elevating Hussein or Ashrawi do? As one prominent Arab supporter of the PLO told me yesterday from Jerusalem: "Husseini couldn't fill a telephone booth with his supporters. He simply isn't seen as a genuine Palestinian leader." Still, whoever achieves a state for the Palestinians must gain credibility, and the PLO could still outmanoeuvre Hamas. The Israelis are caught in a no-win position. The PLO gained entry to the Madrid talks by claiming that it was prepared for a two-stage strategy: early talks to negotiate a period of interim autonomy, with a mandatory obligation upon the Israelis

to negotiate a final agreement after three years. Having got to Madrid, the Palestinians did a 180-degree turn and insisted that before agreeing to talks on interim autonomy they had to see the shape of the final agreement. Meanwhile, Palestinian society has been growing ever more violent.

The Intifada has been a ruinous policy. As Mrs Ashrawi told me: "It became factionalised and then a base for military recruiting." Now the Intifada is often a front for extortion from Palestinians by Palestinians. Anyone who does not pay up or holds a different political view risks his life and that of his family. The Intifada's leaders, issued by the United National Leadership of the Uprising, urge women, children and all Palestinians to turn the territories "into a fire of volcano and struggle".

As it is, many Arabs are rather pleased with the sealing off of the Territories. "Politically," I was told by Jack Khazmo, the publisher of the PLO-subsidised *Al-Bayader Assiya Weekly News*, "this is a good thing: it will make the Palestinians more dependent on themselves, and reinforces the pre-1967 boundaries."

Sealing off the Territories may have been the most imaginative move Mr Rabin has tried, but it is unlikely he will have the stamina to see it through, and

the predictions are that the Territories will be open again soon. The immediate reason for his action was obvious: if a state cannot guarantee that its citizens can go and buy milk without being stabbed on the streets, then the state is not viable. But Likud members are panicking at Mr Rabin's action, because they sense what the Arabs smell in the air: the move envisages a *de facto* separation of Palestinian and Jewish states along a geographical border. And in a sense, it signals to those Jews who live in the Occupied Territories that they do so at their own peril: they have chosen to settle in what is not properly Israel. No Israeli will admit this, but their sense of security can never be the same. This could be one of those temporary measures that have a way of becoming permanent, were it not for greed. The Territories provide Israel with cheap building and agricultural labour, and who beside the Arabs will do such work?

The world changes in many ways. In the past ten years, the quasi-Marxists ran out of steam just as quasi-Khomeinists gained a head of it. This has reduced the influence of secular, Christian and non-fundamentalist Muslims in the Middle East, including countries such as Syria and Egypt. Alliances made under the unifying flag of nationalism and Marxism have come asunder. Arafat's PLO is a dozen different factions each with its own agenda. As for Arafat, one PLO member told me, "He goes to many shops. Who can tell where he will have been this week?" One cannot predict the consequences, only try to understand the problems of dealing with negotiators who may represent no one but themselves.

One hundred days of solicitude

Peter Stothard tests the atmosphere in Washington as the first magical marker looms for the Clinton administration



Still on the first green: Clinton's tough game, as drawn by Arcadio for La Nación (San Jose, Costa Rica)

Bosnian atrocities. Either Bill Clinton was misleading his voters during the election campaign when he attacked President Bush's caution towards Serbia, or he was genuinely determined to act in accordance with his own characteristically American moral outrage. If he was cheating the voters last year, then his equivocations in office are no more than a search for escape routes of the sort beloved by the British government. If he was sincere, then his actions in increasing Washington's involvement (through his special envoy, the air-drops of food, the no-fly zone and threats of raising the arms embargo) may be steps towards preparing his countrymen for sending troops to Sarajevo.

Americans are still some long way from approving a direct intervention in Bosnia, even one approved by their popular new president. But the spirit of conversation in the National Security Council has a moral tone that would terrify the faint hearts of Europe. There is open talk of the merits of punitive bombing, the demerits of merely "feeding the dead" and the "horrible trade-off" that may be necessary between

making an example of Serbia and saving Muslim lives. One senior official spoke firmly of the White House's admiration for France and its policy of greater militancy than that shown by Britain. As for whether John Major would ever join a US-instigated operation against the Serbs, the response was less than wholehearted. "I'm not sure that Britain wouldn't be there if push really came to shove in Europe."

The administration has moved extraordinarily fast to prepare itself to take a difficult message to the nation. The laptop computers and unemptied bookshelves tell the story of an administration that puts the highest priority on high-technology communication, even if it means "narrowcasting" to small groups means less access for the national White House press corps. Mr Clinton has practised hard at taking his message over the heads of Washington to the people beyond. He knows that this will be necessary most of all if he is to persuade voters to pay more taxes for universal health care. The fast-moving debate on how access to doctors can be provided more widely and cheaply is one of the

marvels of the 100 days. If "atmosphere" means anything in this context it means an air of compromise, even among the most obstructive of the medical profession, which would have been incredible at any other time. But the price will still be high — and the battles ahead dwarf any other domestic issue.

Tactics for selling tax increases can also, however, be used for selling the idea that America's place in the world was uniquely founded upon a moral imperative — and that President Clinton will keep up that tradition by force if international peace demands it. Allied diplomats seem increasingly to believe that this is the president's true position — if only he can find the right opportunity to adopt it. Yesterday's intervention by Margaret Thatcher is likely to be welcomed as a help upon the way.

Further down the chart of 100-day achievements lie some blacker marks: broken promises on Haitian immigration, the early weeks when hundreds of offices were not merely empty of books and pictures but of working people. Since every appointment, it seemed, had to cross Mrs Clinton's desk, few appoint-

ments were made. Since few aides were in place, lobbyists and interest groups were the only powers in town. While the Clintonising of the Bosnia policy was a benefit, the Clintonising of trade policy, under the aggressive and inexperienced leadership of Mickey Kantor (FOB, FOH) was not.

A late error of Congressional tactics gave Senate Republicans the opportunity to stall the president's unwisely named economic "stimulus programme". The White House expected public outrage at the filibustering of the new president's plans by a Senate minority. The public remembered, however, how the Democrats had so long wrecked George Bush's programmes, and raised hardly a murmur. Even as the Senate was preparing to vote, the White House was delivering the classic old-style Washington punishment to a dissident Democrat senator who had dared call Mr Clinton "the taxman": some 80 federal jobs were moved from Richard Shelby's state of Alabama to Texas, where there is shortly to be a fiercely contested Senate race. A symbolic gesture, it is true. But the White House makes sure that Alabamians get the message of more to come if their man keeps misbehaving.

One darkening shadow over the 100-days test comes from the unlikely quarter of *The New Republic*, the Democrat weekly much read in Washington offices at moments when their occupants are "off-line". Under the headline "Clinton", the magazine this week berates White House aides, lobbyists and journalists (including its own) for having shared too many houses, colleges, conferences, law-partners, marital beds — and thus, all importantly, having had the same internationalist political ideas.

The article paints a gory picture of well-known journalists helping their well-known wives to gain jobs such as that of Attorney General of a president who is appointing half of Harvard, it seems, to plum posts; of Oxford University chums who stand in line to be head of the FBI; of wives who work for H while husband works for B. The fear of *The New Republic* is that all this networking by "clever people" (as opposed to the usual mixture of Republican thick and rich) will stifle debate and stop the president staying in touch with the real America. The argument, for all its irritation to those named in the article, is not yet a strong one. If the Bosnian tragedy tries President Clinton's patience any further, he may have a chance to prove his pull over American opinion well before his aides have finished unpacking their office furniture.

The author is Editor of The Times.

Publish and damn

NO ONE who saw her could have been in doubt: Baroness Thatcher definitely has a head of steam. But then she had been restraining her natural impulse to speak out on Bosnia for more than a week in an effort to make progress on her memoirs. The bad news for John Major is that she has nearly finished them.

When the typescript is delivered to the publisher in a few weeks time, Lady Thatcher's self-imposed purdah, which (Bosnia apart) has been broken only by the occasional newspaper article, will be over. It could be a long hot summer for the government.

The memoirs will contain an epilogue, detailing what she would have done had she still been running the country. There will also be a reference to her views on foreign policy, including Bosnia.

The former prime minister had been tempted to take advantage of dozens of media requests for interviews on Tuesday of last week, the first anniversary of the siege of Sarajevo. But as John

O'Sullivan, the New York-based editor of the *National Review* who is helping to write the memoirs, is flying into London at the weekend, she decided to restrain herself and work on. Only after watching television coverage of the bombardment of Srebrenica did she decide to speak out.

Lady Thatcher's onslaught comes at a time when the prime minister's official biographer, Bruce Anderson, who is updating his book on Mr Major, has been hinting of a thaw in relations. Only last week he predicted: "Once Maastricht has passed through the House of Lords there will be a rapprochement between John Major and Margaret Thatcher. They met at a party recently and had a long chat." Obviously not about Bosnia.

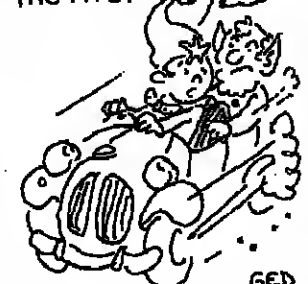
Alija Izetbegovic, Muslim president of Bosnia, arrives in Norway today for talks with Thorvald Stoltenberg, the diplomat who takes over from Cyrus Vance very soon as peace envoy. Izetbegovic may

find his reception in Oslo essentially familiar. When state secretary at the foreign office, Stoltenberg was in the habit of asking guests to stay for a working lunch — of mineral water and unuttered crisp bread.

Blyton blight

NODDY and Big Ears would have been very cross about the Property Misdescriptions Act and how nasty it has been to Enid Blyton, their creator. The thatched cottage where she lived for nine years is for sale, but the estate agents dare not publish what she had to say about it.

We're only 3 minutes from the river



DIARY

Her gushing description is simply illegal. "It is perfect, both outside and in," she trilled in her diary in 1929. "Just like a fairytale house and three minutes from the river."

The house inspired many of her tales but leaves the agents devoid of poetry. "We can say it's got a thatched roof and that's about it," says Mark Haines, of Rafferty Buckland in High Wycombe. "We can't even say the river is minutes away because people walk at different speeds."

Problems once again for England's cricket selectors. Seemingly unable to field a single candidate yesterday worthy of the title *Cricketer of the Year*, the sponsors Cornhill Insurance celebrated the opening day of the 1993 season by opting for two: Chris Lewis, the all rounder, and

Alec Stewart, the vice-captain. As team manager Keith Fletcher, said: "In the true manner of the selectors, they have again fudged the issue." Doesn't bode well for the Ashes.

Biting back

THEY say revenge is a dish best eaten cold. When Malcolm Rifkind decided Baroness Thatcher's comments as "emotional nonsense" there was a distinct sound of old scores being settled.

Mr Rifkind has never forgiven his former boss for the humiliation he suffered in the 1990 Budget when concessions were announced to ease the introduction of the poll tax. The changes, welcomed by cheering English Tory MPs, enraged Scottish MPs as they were not being made retro-

spective to compensate for the introduction of the tax in Scotland 12 months earlier.

In the row that followed it emerged that Mr Rifkind had not been consulted about the changes. Reports circulated that he had threatened to resign unless similar concessions were made in Scotland. The government backed down and Lady Thatcher was forced to defend Mr Rifkind in the Commons. "He is the best Scottish Secretary Scotland has ever had," she said. What does she make of him as defence secretary?

PROPERTY agents are already dining out on stories about Jacques Attali and his lavishly housed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Among them: tales of the headquarters that got away, Embankment Place, the Terry Farrell-designed riverside building near Trafalgar Square. Negotiations apparently broke down over an Attali demand for a personal glass-walled lift running up the outside of the building. It would have run direct to his presidential suite on the top floor — neatly avoiding his auditors.

A three-decker from the old team



Will there be room at the bookshop for Terry Waite? A reprint is already planned for McCarthy and Morrell's *Some Other Rainbow*, launched this week: Brian Keenan's haunting tale from Beirut, *An Evil Cradling*, is already a critical success, so can there be anything left in the pot for Waite's version of events, to be published in September? Lord Runcie, Waite's erstwhile employer, believes so. "They are all bound to be very different books: Terry's will

have more religious and political analysis," he says. Waite was in confident mood too. "Last does not mean least," he says. "There's an old proverb about how well a bottle of wine matures if it is left to rest for a while." McCarthy has nevertheless influenced Waite, by providing him with a title. "It was in our last year in captivity: we were all talking about the books we would write, and I said Terry's would have to be called *Taken on Trust*."

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER J. D. KING-MARTIN

Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, CBE, DSO, MC, Deputy Commander Eastern District, 1968-70, died on April 11 aged 78. He was born on March 9, 1915.

JOHNNY King-Martin had a long career of really active service which began with the Waziristan campaign on the North West Frontier in the years before the war, and continued in Africa in 1940. He fought in many of the major engagements of the second world war. But his fighting days were very far from over when it ended, as his decorations attest. He won his MC in Korea, in some of the toughest fighting of the war there. His DSO was a recognition of the superb leadership he displayed in Cyprus at the height of the Eoka campaign of insurgency which rendered the security situation in the island precarious in the extreme. His appointment as CBE was, again, for participation in active military operations, this time against the Indonesian threat to Malaysia, which developed in the 1960s.

King-Martin was one of the very few infantry officers of the pre-war Indian Army who transferred to the Royal Artillery, in the British service subsequently to reach the rank of brigadier. He owed his success to outstanding qualities of leadership. His life was a persistent pursuit of active service duty. He was a fine fighting soldier who hated the idea of being on the staff and tried to avoid it.

John Douglas King-Martin was born in Batool, India, son of an Indian Forest Service official. He was educated at Allhallows School and went to Sandhurst before being commissioned into the 3rd Royal Sikh Battalion, 12th Frontier Force Regiment in 1935. He joined his regiment in the North-West Frontier Province, immediately before it left for two years rigorous campaigning in the hills of Waziristan, undertaken to suppress the uprising led by the Fagir of Ipi.

At the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, the 3/12th Frontier Force moved to join the 5th Indian Division at Scuderaabad. Within a month of Italy's entry into the war on July 10, 1940, the 5th Indian Division embarked for East Africa. King-Martin's battalion saw action almost immediately against the troops of the Duke of Aosta at Gallabat, on Sudan's frontier with Eritrea, as part of Brigadier (later Field Marshal) W. J. Slim's 10th Indian Brigade.

The 3/12th Frontier Force took part in all the 5th Indian Division battles of the Eritrean campaign, which reached their culmination in the battle of Keren. The Italian mountain strong-



hold barred the way to the capital Asmara and the naval base at Massawa. The Italian defenders of Keren under General Carmineo were skilfully surrounded and showed a fine fighting spirit which was in marked contrast to that of their compatriots in the desert campaign. The first British-Indian attack against them was unsuccessful but, after a contest lasting 53 days, Keren fell and Asmara was taken on April 1, 1941. King-Martin's battalion was at once dispatched southwards with the 9th Indian Brigade for the decisive battle of Amba Alagi, in Ethiopia, where the defeated, but by no means disgraced, Duke of Aosta surrendered on May 19, 1941.

The 5th Indian Division was then transferred to the Western Desert in time for the 3/12th Frontier Force to take part in the battle of the Cauldron,

Field Regiment in Korea. The period 1952-53 included some of the most severe fighting of this bitter war, which took place after the intervention of the Chinese army in overwhelming strength. King-Martin was awarded the Military Cross for fine work in command of his battery during the first part of 1953. On return from Korea, in spite of being eminently qualified, he avoided service on the staff and became Training Major of the Essex Yeomanry RHA until appointed to command SO Medium Regiment RA in 1956.

The Eoka campaign in Cyprus was at its height at this time, placing heavy demands on the already severely stretched British infantry. King-Martin's artillery regiment was sent to Cyprus in an infantry role and made responsible for the Paphos district in the south-west of the island. During 1957-58 the Paphos district command was credited with the highest success rate against the insurgents, and King-Martin was awarded the DSO.

King-Martin continued to avoid service on the staff with consummate skill. He commanded a college at Sandhurst until appointed Commander Royal Artillery of 17th Gurkha Division in Malaysia in 1960. With the onset of the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation in 1962, the GOC and most of the divisional staff were moved to Borneo. King-Martin commanded the remainder of the division in its operations to counter Indonesian landings on the Malaysian mainland peninsula. For this he was appointed CBE in 1964.

Although by age and command experience eminently qualified for promotion to major-general on his return from Malaysia, King-Martin found that there were fewer posts to be filled in that rank than there were able and experienced men available. The fashion, current at that time, of favouring those who had served in the British Army of the Rhine, told against him. He held two further commands as a brigadier in England before retiring from the Army in 1970. He was appointed an ADC to the Queen in 1968.

Johnnie King-Martin was well-known throughout the Army as a strong but invariably good-humoured commander. His presence and bearing brought immediate attention. He radiated confidence, making plain that he knew what needed to be done and how to get it done. In retirement he worked tirelessly as the Army's schools liaison officer for East Anglia, where he also made for himself a reputation as a landscape artist.

He leaves his widow, Jemima, a son and a daughter.

KAREN GERSHON

Karen Gershon, poet, died in London on March 24 aged 69. She was born in Bielefeld, Germany, on August 29, 1923.



KAREN Gershon was a lone voice in Holocaust poetry and literature in this country during the 1960s, when the general public, Gentile and Jewish, was not yet ready for the unburdening of the trauma of the second world war.

Herself a "children's transport" arrival in England in 1938 at the age of 15, she threw off all connections with her past as soon as possible. She left the Scottish refuge hostel, where she had been placed, and took domestic and office jobs in Leeds. She won a scholarship to Edinburgh University but gave it up to work in a boarding school and house-mother posts in progressive boarding schools around the country. She married an English non-Jewish art teacher, Val Tripp, in 1948 and settled with him in Ilminster, Somerset, to raise a family on humanitarian principles.

As a child in Bielefeld, Westphalia, she had belonged to the German-Jewish Liberal tradition and attended a Zionist youth group, where she prepared for a future life in Palestine — not that she looked forward to collective life on an agricultural kibbutz, having more literary ambitions. Her older sister received a certificate to go to Palestine but as Karen was under 17, her parents sent her to England for safety instead. Like many of her background, she felt culturally rather than religiously Jewish and wished to be more German. Her name then was Kate Loewenthal.

After moving to Ilminster, she started writing in English but did not feel sure enough to publish until she had won an English verse competition. Her first book of *Selected Poems*, published by Victor Gollancz in 1966, was full of the pain of the sudden and final separation from her parents, who perished in a concentration camp in Riga, Latvia. Her repeated line "I was not there to comfort them" showed the now familiar guilt of the survivor.

Her collective autobiogra-

phy, fusing the accounts of nearly 250 child refugees into one story, *We Came as Children*, marked the 25th anniversary of the Kindertransport operation and led to a wider audience on television programmes and to poetry readings. In the early 1970s, she was chosen as one of the dial-a-poem telephone poets.

Her surname comes from the name given by Moses to a son born in Midian because he was "a stranger in a strange land". The sense of alienation never left her. After a visit to her home town in Germany in 1963, where all trace of the Jewish community had been wiped out including her father's name on architectural plaques, she wrote: "I have always denied that I am German... yet am only marginally Jewish... I live in England from choice." But as her children grew up, she felt a growing need to give them a background of Jewish religious symbols, festival and ceremonies.

Her courageously penetrating verse on a deeply wounded subject earned her awards and recognition in 1967 from the Arts Council, from an American organisation, and from Israel, where she was invited to spend a study tour. Israel was an emotional highpoint for her, where she

found that being a Jew and a refugee could be a normal condition and nothing to hide or be ashamed of. At Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, she felt she came the nearest she possibly could to her parents' grave. She went to live in Israel in 1969 but practical problems brought the family back to England six years later, where they lived first in London and then Cornwall. However, Israel's pull was strong enough for three of her four children to make their home there.

She continued writing, widening her field to include motherhood and biblical themes. But the pain of bereavement, flight and exile was always present, whether in her poetry volumes such as *My Daughters*, *My Sisters* and *Coming Back From Babylon* or her novels, such as *Bread of Exile*, which explored autobiographical strands. She wrote for all her generation when she said: "I write about my parents because to think about them is all that is left to me of them. I write about my childhood because there is no one to tell me what it was really like, and I use my poetry as a means of discovering an unremembered truth." She leaves her husband, two sons and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE, LONDON, RENTALS, WANTED, ANIMALS IN NEED, DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION, WINTER SPORTS, OLD AND FIT NOT OLD AND SICK, HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS, BARBICAN, BLUEBIRDEXPRESS, NICE, RENTALS, SERVICES, POEMS, Will Power to lift the shadow of diabetes, NEW HOUSING, ON THIS DAY April 15 1939, WAR OFFICE "CONSCRIPTION" OF FARM LAND.

GEORGE IVES, "We left him there to suffer a thousand ant bites, but we didn't like doing it. Anyway the man survived. And when the armistice was called, we all became friendly. We often got together." "That was Ives's last spell in the army: when the first world war broke out he was six years old." "She didn't like hanging clothes out to dry and seeing them freeze at once", Ives recalled. So they decided to try their luck in balmy British Columbia, on Canada's west coast.

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

100-443887-100

Uncertainty over the outlook continues to constrain investment. But spending on information technology — often enabling job reductions — is expected to increase at a faster rate over the next 12 months.

2025-1-20

Paper profits: Charles Wightman and Martin Hynes, finance director, reported improved results at Greenbank

By COLIN CAMPBELL

Charles Wightman, Greenbank's chief executive, yesterday reported group pre-tax profits of £5.65 million (£5.4 million) for the year ended January 31 on a turnover of £56.2 million (£56.8 million).

Mr Wightman believes that even though the commercial

Hartley will raise group size numbers by 34 to around 75

IMPERIAL Chemical Industries' Zeneca division said it is to invest £26.5 million in a new production facility for Quorn, its low-fat, vegetable-based protein food. Construction of a second fermenter in Cleveland should be completed by 1995 and increase Quorn production to 14,000 tonnes a year, enabling sales to be extended in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium and launched in countries such as France and Italy. Quorn is marketed by Marlow Foods.

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placing
debts

structural ironmongery
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further

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firm, but is planning
a 1.5p final dividend
ing has slowed down
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£1.10 million
the share price
£1.10 million

Quorum

company has
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£1.10 million
the share price
£1.10 million

Leyland team aims for MBO in two weeks

By ROSS TIDMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANAGERS at the Leyland DAF lorry plant in Leyland, Lancashire, have begun talks with receivers to DAF, the collapsed Anglo-Dutch parent company, aimed at completing a buyout within a fortnight.

John Gilchrist, managing director, said managers had completed their business plan and were now "reviewing a number of offers of funding support from leading financial institutions".

He added: "Negotiations are likely to continue for some days, but we hope that we may be able to arrive at an agreement with the receivers which will deliver an independent business at Leyland by the end of this month."

Lancashire Enterprises, the enterprise agency, has also begun talks aimed at purchasing the 230 acre site from the receivers, leasing 100 acres back to the buyout company, and developing the rest into a business and technology park. Linked agreements would secure the survival of one of the most modern lorry plants in Britain, save more than 1,100 jobs at the factory, and raise the prospect of new jobs to replace those lost at the plant since receivers were appointed in February.

The rescue proposals at Leyland closely mirror plans for a buyout of the van plant in Birmingham, supported by Birmingham Heartlands development corporation which aims to buy the site and lease

Michael Heseltine, already under pressure arising from the shake-up of the coal industry, must devise a way to help the proposed management buyout at DAF

part back to the MBO company, Leyland Vans Limited. That deal is expected to be completed next Monday.

However, while the Birmingham buyout is likely to benefit from an environment department grant towards purchase of the land, and "regional selective assistance" to help the new operation, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, will have to use all his imagination to find a way to help the Lancashire buyout. The lorry plant is not in an assisted area, although a government response is expected next month to pleas for its inclusion in one. Talks between the buyout group and DTI officials about possible grant aid are continuing.

Buyout plans are also being formulated by managers at the Leyland DAF spares warehouse in Chorley, Lancashire, and at the African subsidiaries, which assemble vehicles exported in kit form.

Production at Leyland was maintained yesterday, despite a threat from the refusal of Automotive Products to resume delivery of brake parts until it is paid £758,000 for supplies delivered before the group went into receivership. However, assembly of vans was severely curtailed as brake supplies have been used up.

Managers hope normal deliveries will be resumed once the buyout has been completed.

In Holland, Gary Klesch, an American lawyer, said he planned to initiate legal proceedings on behalf of DAF bondholders against two financial institutions responsible for the rescue of the Dutch and Belgian operations in February.

ABN-Amro, the lead manager to the bond issue, and the trustee, Nederlandsche Trust-Maatschappij, ABN's 50 per cent associate, arranged funding of 150 million guilders (£54 million) to restart manufacturing on the Continent.

Mr Klesch claimed to speak for holders of 30 million guilders worth of bonds and be in talks with owners of 40 million guilders more. The bonds ranked as senior debt but were unsecured.

Mr Klesch said: "We will be initiating legal proceedings in the Netherlands against the trust... for negligence and dereliction of duties in protecting bondholders' rights." He said the bondholders' company has retained the Dutch law firm Sibbe Simont Monahan Dubot.

A meeting of DAF shareholders will take place tomorrow near the former headquarters of DAF in Eindhoven, Holland.



Taking markets by the throat: Nigel McGinley, chief executive, and Roy Bishko are planning to open new outlets in northern Europe

Tie Rack smoothes out the creases

By CARL MORTISHED

TIE RACK, the tie and silk scarf retailer, has climbed back from its disastrous American expansion. Pre-tax profits leapt to £5.1 million in the 12 months to January 31, from £1 million the previous year.

The company made a \$2.4 million loss in the US in 1991. Roy Bishko, the chairman, blames over-expansion and high central costs. "We over-paid, particularly in New York City, and we had a huge warehouse in Pennsylvania with 32 people, all drinking coffee," he said.

The warehouse is gone and the company has cut its operating losses in America to £53,000 on sales of £11.2 million. Its target is to break even this year. In the UK, like-for-like sales growth was 6 per cent for the year; eight new stores helped to lift sales from £34 million to £42 million.

The Rack has 272 shops in 11 countries, an increase of 15 during the year. The company aims to open about 25 outlets this year; expansion in northern Europe is on the agenda. The Rack is set to open at airports in Geneva, Vienna and several German locations and the emphasis is on direct control rather than franchises, which in the past led to bad debts.

Strong cash flow during the year leaves the company with net cash balances of £7 million. Earnings per share trebled to 6.1p and the dividend is raised to 1p (0.5p).

Times, page 29

OFT's powers to be strengthened

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE government is to strengthen laws against abuses of market power in an amendment to the Restrictive Trade Practices Act that will give the director-general of fair trading limited powers of search and entry where he suspects documents are being withheld or destroyed.

Amendments to the act were announced yesterday by Neil Hamilton, the corporate affairs minister, although they have yet to find a place in the parliamentary timetable. It is likely they will be made in the autumn.

The new legislation will

attempt to prevent predatory pricing, in which a company drops its prices to force a smaller competitor out of business. It would also aim to prevent supermarket chains or their suppliers laying down unfair conditions.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, published a green paper last November laying out three options to deal with alleged abuses of power. In deciding against new laws specifically prohibiting abuse of market power, Mr Hamilton said such legislation would "increase the regulatory burden

on companies and introduce uncertainty for business". Opposition MPs immediately accused Mr Hamilton of choosing a "soft option", and making no attempt to deal with the problems faced by small businesses in dealing with high street banks.

It is intended that the director-general of Fair Trading would be enabled to accept enforceable undertakings before making formal investigations under the Competition Act and in lieu of a monopoly reference under the Fair Trading Act. A breach of undertakings would ultimately become

contempt of court. Mr Hamilton also said that powers would be introduced to allow interim orders to be made on a company while a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation was proceeding. The interim orders would prohibit specified activities by a company where there was good reason to believe that a competitor, customer or supplier risked serious damage during the time a monopolies investigation was proceeding. Mr Hamilton said four sets of proposals would create closer and speedier control of companies' positions in the market.

Irish Life suffers fall in value

Falls in the equity and property markets and changes in taxation rules in Ireland resulted in Irish Life, the insurer, reporting a fall in embedded value for the year to end-December.

The embedded value — a means used by life insurers to estimate the value of shareholders' interests in the net worth and existing business of the group — fell £221 million to £1494 million (£490 million). Pre-tax profits edged ahead to £141.6 million. The final dividend stays at 5.44p, making a total for the year of 7.1p (7.04p).

Yule Catto up

Yule Catto, the speciality chemicals and building products group, made pre-tax profits of £22.2 million (£21.8 million) in the year to end-December on sales of £267 million (£265 million). Earnings rose from 16.1p to 16.4p, out of which the dividend rises by 9.3 per cent to 5.9p.

Winning Time

Time Products, the watch and jewellery distribution group, has won the agency to distribute Swiss Audemar Piguet watches in North America and will pay \$7 million in cash for existing assets.

Share-out plan

The Anglo-American Group of South Africa plans to distribute to shareholders of Welkom Gold and Orange Free State Investments direct and indirect shareholdings in Freegold, the world's largest gold mining company.

Gold ahead

Renewed political tension in South Africa helped the London gold price rise by \$2.25 to \$339.25 an ounce and the New York platinum price by \$9 to \$373 an ounce.

Response to offer surprises Cook

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THOMAS Cook, the German-controlled travel group, has been overwhelmed by the response of shareholders to its tender offer of 150p a share. It has been forced to scale down tenders pro rata by a factor of 0.164.

An Owners shareholder who tendered 100 per cent of his holding will be told that only 16.4 per cent has been accepted.

Thomas Cook, which had made a tender offer to acquire up to 19.4 million shares, received valid tenders for 118.2 million, equivalent to 75.9 per cent of Owners' capital. Owners directors had earlier said they would not tender their own shareholdings.

Cook already owned 8.9 per cent of Owners, and now owns 21.4 per cent of its issued capital.

The tender offer, at 150p, was always likely to prove attractive, given that the shares traded at 114p before

the tender closed. Yesterday, Owners shares eased by 4p to 110p.

Cook stepped in after Airtours had bid for Owners. Cook sought a commercial alliance with Owners that might otherwise have been threatened. It said it would make a tender offer at 150p for up to 12.5 per cent of the shares, on condition that the Airtours bid failed.

Airtours subsequently sold its 8.2 per cent stake in Owners at a loss in the market. The way is now clear, as indicated during the bid battle, for Howard Klein, Owners' chairman, to be appointed to Cook's board, and for Christopher Rodriguez, Cook's chief executive, to become a non-executive director of Owners.

Cheques in respect of shares accepted under the tender offer will be sent out on April 27 by National Westminster Bank, and balance share certificates by Owners' registrars in due course.

HK stake in Trafalgar lifted

By GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR



Gormly: results due

HONGKONG Land has taken its holding in Trafalgar House, the engineering and construction conglomerate, up to 25.1 per cent after negotiating the early exercise of put options held over shares which were due to run out early next month.

Trafalgar House A shares rose 2p to 79p after the announcement. Hongkong Land is part of Hong Kong's Jardine Matheson group, controlled by the Keswick family. It added that options held over further shares, which could have taken its stake up to 27 per cent, had been cancelled.

Half-year results from Trafalgar are due on May 5. Hongkong Land said that the stake would help Trafalgar's cash flow.

Hongkong Land has said it would not bid for Trafalgar within a year unless a rival launched an offer.

The options followed a £204 million cash call by Trafalgar on its shareholders which followed poor full-year results. The announcement followed a dawn raid by Hongkong Land on Trafalgar, whose chief executive is Allan Gormly, which netted 14.9 per cent of the shares.

Half-year results from Trafalgar are due on May 5. Hongkong Land said that the stake would help Trafalgar's cash flow.

Lloyd's anticipates business plan

By SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOYD'S of London is bracing itself for the imminent unveiling of the insurance market's business plan, which is expected to make sweeping changes to the role of members' agencies and allow names to form their own limited liability companies from the start of next year.

The 30-page plan will detail a mass of reforms aimed at returning the loss-making market to profit. Peter Middleton, chief executive, and David Rowland, chairman, must produce a plan that stems the flood of capital leaving the market, resolves the mass of litigation and restores the 306-year old market's competitiveness by tough cost-cutting.

According to the Society of Names, the changes will have to be radical to achieve the intended results. The market is swash with rumour over the contents of the plan

but SoN has drawn up a list of recommendations it believes will be included.

In an attempt to reduce the market's cost base, members' agencies will have their "back-office" administrative functions removed and transferred to Lloyd's to manage centrally. The removal of tasks such as handling names' deposits would cut the agencies' role to the bone, leaving them with the sole task of advising names which syndicates to join.

Claims handling for both active syndicates and those in run-off — the wind-down years after a syndicate stops underwriting — is expected to be centralised. There are hundreds of syndicates which have been left open because they were involved in underwriting long-tail liabilities, such as US asbestos and pollution claims. In these cases the run-off can take decades, not only incurring heavy costs for the names but also trapping them and their reserves in

Lloyd's. If claims handling was centralised it would end the duplication of skills in the growing number of agencies involved in run-off.

As one Lloyd's insider said: "Claims processing makes up 30 per cent of costs. If Lloyd's managed the claims centrally costs would fall sharply because there would be no need for each agency to have its own pollution expert, for example."

The business plan is expected to offer a solution to the problem of names caught on open years for more than ten years. According to SoN, a new run-off company will be set up to take over asbestos and pollution policies written before 1983. Names would be able, at a cost, to pass their liabilities to the new venture. An article yesterday said Lloyd's names on Wellington syndicates 406 and 488 were taking legal action to try to recover insurance losses. It should have said Wellington syndicates 406 and 448.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Re: THE INDEMNITY ACT 1966
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provisions of the Indemnity Act 1966, in relation to the winding up of the company, have been applied to the company, and the provisions of the Act are hereby incorporated into the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

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It promises to pay the bearer.

The Economist

مَكْنَزٍ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall dividend figure. If you have a share in the company, you will have a claim on the dividend. If you have a share in the company, you will have a claim on the dividend. If you have a share in the company, you will have a claim on the dividend.

| No. | Company | Group | Price | Div | Yield | P/E |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 | 1000 Match The Shares | | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Please take into account any minus signs

1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 33277 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see Sunday Times for full details)

Three winners equally shared yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr G Foster, Chardlers, Kent, Hampers Mr L Lee, Sevenoaks, Kent and Mr I Thomson of Edinburgh.

| 1993 | High | Low | Company | Price | Div | Yield | P/E |
|------|------|------|------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 4 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 9 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

BREWERS

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 4 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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BUILDING, ROADS

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 4 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 7 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 9 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Shares dip in mixed trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 29. Dealings end April 16. Settlement day April 26. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BUSINESS SERVICES

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|----|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 4 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 7 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 10 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

ELECTRICITY

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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FINANCE, LAND

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 4 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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HOTELS, CATERERS

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|----|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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ELECTRICALS

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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INDUSTRIALS

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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BUSINESS SERVICES

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| 1 | 1000 | 1000 | Match The Shares | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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Another fight at the opera

It is ironic that in the birthplace of opera itself, it is not the quality of the performances that makes the headlines, but the scandals, union strikes, last-minute cancellations and grotesque public diatribes that inevitably accompany them. In other countries, temperamental prima donnas are confined to the stage; in Italy, they are behind it, beneath it, in the pit, in the wings. Yet outsiders sometimes forget that the spirit of melodrama which is at the heart of Italian opera is equally fundamental to the Italian character, so that while the administration of foreign opera houses is quite separate from the productions, in Italy they are all part of a seamless whole. To expect it to be different is wishful thinking, like asking a dog to stop chasing cats.

'Opera has always been Italy's equivalent of the British Royal Family'

With all the comforting regularity of La Scala's opening night on St Ambrose's Day (December 7), every season within living memory has seen the publication of ritual soul-searching articles by the Italian press on the terminal decline of *la lirica*: sad victim of political infighting and union bolshiness, unwarranted appointments and unfair dismissals, a chronic cash crisis and a scandalous waste of public money. The importance of pageantry and the dependence on lavish state funds have always made opera Italy's equivalent of the British Royal Family, with every evidence that the major Italian players are buckling under the strain as much as their British royal counterparts. Nobody would argue that Luciano Pavarotti is a parasite, but he is fast turning into the Italian equivalent of Fergie. It is extraordinary how many ill-judged career moves he has made. Like the younger royals, he has allowed himself to be sucked into the perfidious waters of an alien youth culture, with largely unsatisfactory results. Last October, the rock-style benefit concert he organised in his native Modena finished in fiasco, when the sponsors realised he was miming. His recent hit single "Miserere" with the Italian rock star Zucchero, and his appearance on March 2 at Sting's Amazonia benefit at Carnegie Hall in New York only added lustre to their careers. Behaving like a pop singer, and throwing professional caution



Homegrown superstar of the troubled world of Italian opera: Luciano Pavarotti has made a series of ill-judged career moves

He has vulgarised the austere Fascist exterior of the Rome Opera; put his staff into 18th-century livery; rented exorbitantly expensive Persian carpets. Luciano Berio, Italy's most famous living composer, and a frequent critic of the Italian musical status quo, raised the temperature even further last month in a radio interview: "Apart from La Scala, Bologna and Florence, all the other Italian opera houses are useless; they are politically corrupt, and most of them are run by complete cretins." Besides, he added, "there are too many - at least half should be closed down."

The recent controversy in Venice which led to the resignation of the communist-leaning *direttore artistico* was provoked by the inappropriate, populist long-term planning of the Socialist-backed *sovrintendente*. The previous artistic director at La Fenice, the British conductor John Fisher, had already been driven into resignation by his own mistakes. Even more sinister and tragic was the episode two years ago, when the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, Italy's only successful privately-run major opera house, was burnt down by arsonists. Another negative factor is the extraordinarily high level of fees paid to singers and performers in order to lure them to appear in Italy. Apart from La Scala, and to a lesser extent Bologna and Florence, there is not a theatre in Italy where foreign performers would sing without getting twice or three times their normal fee elsewhere. After several celebrated scandals a couple of years ago, the government imposed an official limit of 30 million lire (£12,000) for top stars. In classic Italian fashion, this is routinely evaded in an effort to entice some of the world's top singers. Lax spending and unsackable employees (thanks to Italy's union-friendly labour laws) make the cost of Italian opera astronomical. Every show at Rome costs twice what one would at Covent Garden; at La Scala it is three times as much. State funding in Italy is upwards of 75 per cent, which hardly encourages careful housekeeping. It has been calculated that every time a Roman bottom sits down at Il Teatro dell'Opera, it costs the state the equivalent of £160. Although the government continues to slash the opera budget, Cresci continues in his feeding frenzy; threats by the performing arts minister to sack him have little effect.

Variety and all that jazz

Joseph Holmes
Chicago Dance Theatre
Deragate, Northampton

The Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre certainly has got rhythm. The final minutes of its show had the whole audience at the Deragate, Northampton, tapping their feet and clapping their hands. The tape was playing a medley of Aretha Franklin recordings, while the company's 12 dancers strutted their stuff in front of a night sky and light-spangled skyscrapers.

That closing piece, *Aretha*, was jointly choreographed by the company's founder, Joseph Holmes, and Randy Duncan who took over as artistic director in 1986, after Holmes died. Holmes's memory appears to be very much alive, not only in the company's name, but in a programme of short pieces which represents the two choreographers in equal proportion. This makes for more variety than I would expect from a jazz dance company. For a start, the stylistic differences between Holmes and Duncan appear like a history lesson, summarising the evolution of jazz dance over the 19 years of the company's existence. From the segmented jerks and hip-thrusts of Holmes's "traditional" vocabulary, Duncan has developed a smoother, eclectic approach, incorporating ballet and vernacular movement. In drawing up his selection, Duncan has also taken care to provide diversity of tone. Holmes's *Anything that comes out of my mouth*, for example, focuses on the body plastic of a female trio, overlaid with Oriental inflections that match the sitar in Shadowfax's music, whereas the same choreographer's *Oh, Mary Don't you Weep* has resonances of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, with its gospel song accompaniment, religious intensity and women in long white dresses. By contrast, Duncan's own choreography seems much given to themes of raw primitivism. *Initiation* enacts some ritual that also serves to exhibit flamboyant male muscularity in inventively unusual lifts and postures. *Unarmed* features a solo man like an American Indian warrior, wearily crouching, slipping and twisting. Its gripping gymnastic images deserved a more fluid performance than it got from Arturo Alvarez. Some dancers looked good. Others did less justice to choreography which may be superficial, undemanding and hardly Balanchine, but still has shape and pace. Jazz dance, whose principal domain is the chorus lines of the musical theatre, can for once stand on its own. It brings no disgrace to the East Midlands Year of Dance festival.

NADINE MEISNER

TELEVISION REVIEW: Tony Patrick finds the golden girls still shining despite the loss of a central figure

Friends of Dorothy

Even for characters with an established following, the first episode of a new series is tricky, but *Golden Palace* (Channel 4, last night), a spin-off from *The Golden Girls*, saw the three surviving matrons - Blanche, Rose and Sophia - picking up almost seamlessly from where the final episode of the old show saw them bid goodbye to the newly - and incredibly - remarried Dorothy.

There had always been a welcome willingness to dabble in the surreal about the old show, and fans will have been delighted to note the survival of this dotty optimism in the new one, unfounded though it is in any reading of the apparent facts. Setting themselves a new agenda in the post-Dorothy world, the three women sold the house, pooled their resources and bought a small hotel. Naturally, their expectations of gracious retirement as proprietors of a goldmine were dashed. The *Golden Palace* was on the verge of repossession by the bank and bereft of staff, except for the politically-too-correct trio of a young black manager, his white, pre-teen foster son and a Mexican chef. And (my goodness), a convention of travel agents was about to arrive.

Of course, the day was eventually won, thanks to the resourcefulness of the women and their new-found helpmates. Such glossiness can be forgiven in an establishing episode, but we must hope that a closer semblance of day-to-day hotel life is forthcoming in future, even the wildest food-good fantasies need some grounding in truth. Where other comedy series

people think (applause) was capped by the realisation that she had dialled the wrong number: "Dh, this is 411? I'm sorry, I wonder if you could give me the number for 911." (redoubled applause). The new boys, saddled as they are with having to represent significant minorities, will have a tough time of it. Don Cheadle, as Roland, the bright manager, is very sharp but not credible. Billy L. Sullivan, as Roland's foster son, has yet to be allowed any characterisation beyond too-smart-by-half. Cheech Marin (half of the old hippie-dope-smoking comedy duo Cheech and Chong) looks most promising as Chuy (Chewy) Castillo, the Mexican chef, a sparring partner for "We cook Italian" Sophia. His general hopelessness (sleeping in his car after a messy divorce) and the fact that he has had to pretend to be attracted to Sophia in order to get his job back, after initially walking out in a huff, suggests that a worthy successor to Dorothy's ex-husband Stan has been found.

Jenufa
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20 - 22 - 29 APRIL
5 - 7 MAY at 7.30pm
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
COVENT GARDEN



Sophia, Blanche and Rose meet Roland, the manager of their newly acquired hotel

THE EUROPA CONCERT - A TIMES SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy a May Day classic

On May 1 each year the musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmoniker, perform their annual Europa Concert. The members of the orchestra themselves are responsible for choosing the country and the city which will host the concert each year. This year the unique event - which will be televised live to 15 countries - will be held in London at the Royal Albert Hall, by arrangement with Harold Holt Limited and the sponsors of the concert, Daimler-Benz.



Bernard Haitink will conduct the Albert Hall concert

The conductor on this occasion will be Bernard Haitink, and the talented young German violinist, Frank Peter Zimmermann will be the soloist. The programme consists of Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture, *Romeo and Juliet*, Mozart's Violin Concerto No 3 K216 in G major and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

The concert begins at the unusual time of 10.30am. The arena area will be unseated in "Proms-style" and has been made available to music students and other young people. Ticket prices range from £5 to £30 and are available from the Royal Albert Hall Box Office (071-589 8212). A percentage of all ticket receipts will go to the Prince's Youth Business Trust.

As part of this special event, Times readers can:
1 Buy a ticket for £5 and enter into a draw for a seat worth £10, £20 or even £30. Entrants are guaranteed a seat worth at least £10. This offer is limited to the first 500 applicants.
2 Enter a special competition. If you are aged 25 or under, you are eligible to enter a draw for a free weekend for two in Berlin, where you will have the opportunity to see the Berlin Philharmonic in rehearsal and performance. The prize includes air travel and hotel

accommodation for one night, courtesy of Daimler-Benz.
● To take part in these offers, please complete and return the coupon below.
● To reserve a normal-priced seat, please call the Albert Hall Box Office direct on 071-589 8212.
● Tickets will be sent to you one week before the concert.

SEND NOW FOR YOUR OFFER TICKETS

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at £5 each for the Berlin Philharmonic's Europa Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on May 1

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Value £ _____ Cheque number _____
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Unsafe haven in the West

Angela Carter's posthumous short stories show how dangerous it is to see the New World as a refuge from past tragedies of the Old, says Melinda Camber Porter

Under Angela Carter's imaginative scrutiny, America is well and truly elucidated. Not only does she know and note the different textures of light and sky that distinguish the Southwest from Hollywood and the smell of the soil in Boston that makes it a world apart from the feel of the vast prairies of the Midwest; but she also knows what it is, primarily, that distinguishes the New World from the Old. Her collection of short stories (her last work of fiction before her death a year ago) achieves this remarkable feat within the first five stories, which span not just the geographical "islands" within America, but the myths that segregate the Puritan settlers of the east coast from the movie worshippers of California.

Carter sees America as a hiding ground, an unsafe haven for people fleeing their past, a vast expanse of anonymity where the refugee is always destined to meet all he has fled from. In her short story, "The Fly She's A Whore, brother and sister commit incest in the illusory secrecy of the empty prairie. The landscape is the pretext, the loneliness of empty space, the excuse. "They had the silence and space and an unimaginable freedom

which they dare not imagine," America is the new world, providing them with a new backdrop; but the drama is the same, the passions identical to those felt by Annabella and Giovanni in the play of the same name by the 17th-century dramatist John Ford.

Carter disputes the notion that the New World can break free from the Old. Thus she juxtaposes quotes from the play against an imaginary movie script by the American filmmaker John Ford. She tells simultaneously the stories of an incestuous ecstasy, same names and same tragic deaths.

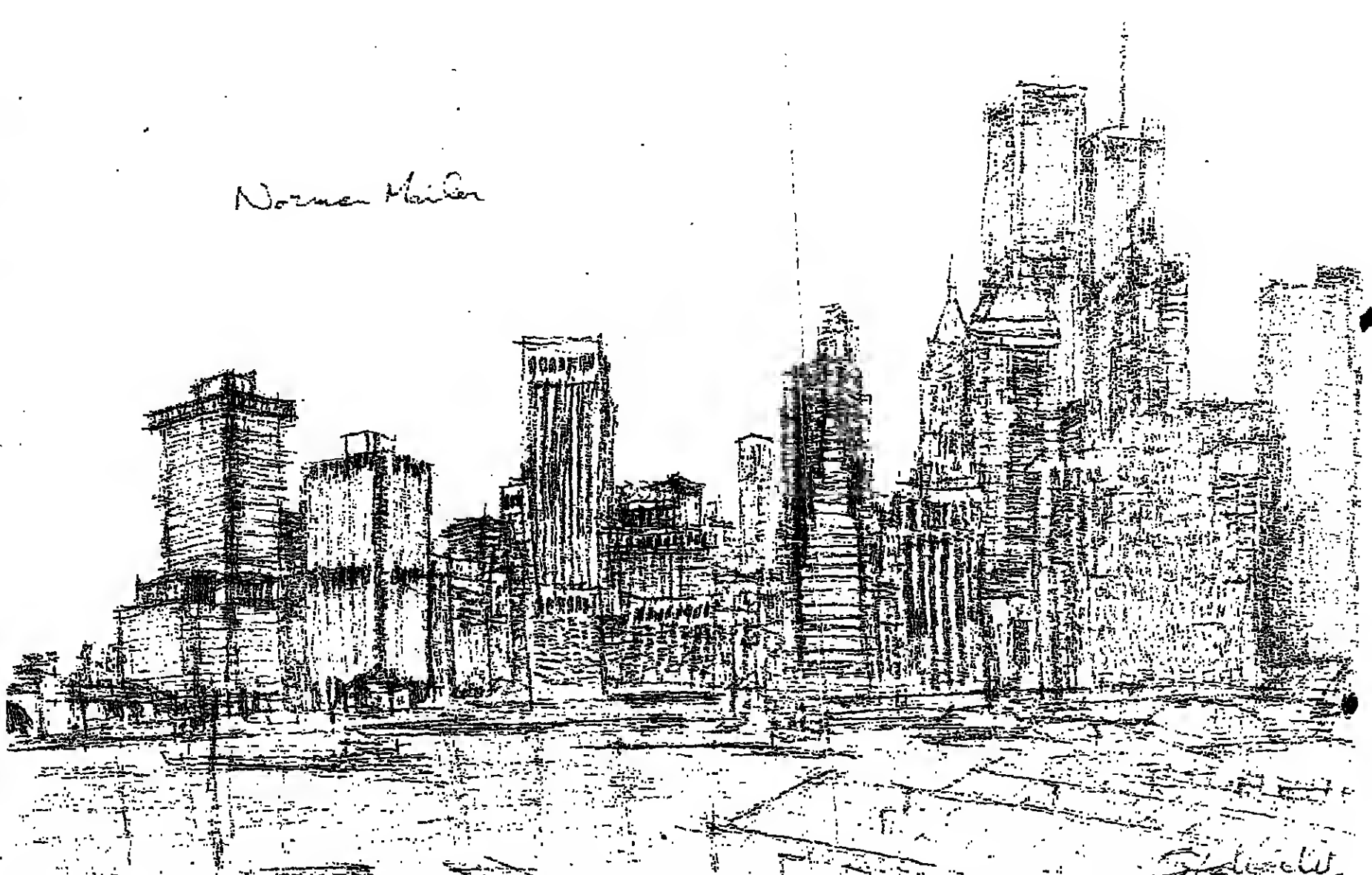
AMERICAN GHOSTS AND OLD WORLD WONDERS

By Angela Carter
Chitro & Windus, £13.99

Giovanni in the dramatist John Ford's play and Annie-Belle and Johnny in the American filmmaker's movie.

What distinguishes the modern incest from the old? What has changed within the human soul since John Ford wrote his play and John Ford made his movies? Has mankind changed his heart and mind, improved himself?

In each and every story, Carter ponders on the unchanging heart of mankind and the recurrent myths that seem to shape each generation's destiny. And yet, in changing narrative fashions, she sees hope. For Carter, narrative is



This rapidly executed sketch of Manhattan is not by Norman Mailer, but by the young autistic artist Stephen Wiltshire, who asked the novelist to autograph it. One of a series reproduced in Stephen Wiltshire's *American Dream* (text by Margaret Hewson, Michael Joseph, £16.99), a title borrowed from Mailer's 1965 novel.

the key: the new way we may tell the same recurrent myth can change our way of looking at the world. And in that new awareness lies the possibility of a changed heart. In the concluding stories, she tries her hand at refashioning new narrative interpretations of old myths, revisiting the Asputz fairy story with a psychoanalytical and feminist twist.

Carter knows that, whether we like it or not, Freud has insinuated himself into every modern narrative. He has become a part of the way we read. His vision defines, in part, that of the New World: his views on sexuality will always be

that double-entendre within a story we can choose to hear or silence. And she shows us, too, that movies make the New World what it is and hold authorial power, changing the way we see ourselves: John Ford the filmmaker tells the incest story to us now: John Ford, the dramatist defunct.

Carter is thoroughly at ease with, and adept at, the narratives of both the New and Old World. In this collection, she reveals in the arts of the screenplay, alternating prose poem with movie dialogue, structural analysis with camera directions. Her imagination is cinema-

tographic and many of the short stories are eminently translatable into film. Her intellect defies nostalgia: she does not lament the days when poetry was the first art and when those who could read books did so. Her temperament is robust, energetic and endlessly inventive, using every form of narrative for her own ends. Though Carter sometimes turns to modernist structural and psychoanalytical theories, her intuitive, poetic powers are always her guide.

In a wonderfully funny story set in Hollywood, she describes the encounter between a geriatric star

and a research student whose doctoral thesis is on the star's deceased film-maker husband. The young man finally understands that he is no match for the demonic daughter of the movie cameras. "I was trapped helpless among these beings who could only exist in California, where the light made movies and madness. And one of them had just arbitrarily drowned the poor little tools of my parasitic trade: this tape recorder, leaving me naked and at their mercy." The terrified academic wills in the presence of the Hollywood legend. Carter feeds the lessons of her

Hollywood cautionary tale, always leaving the reins in the hands of her novelist's imagination, not her academic skills. Though she has chosen America, in the main part, to posit her questions on the perfectibility of man, Carter teaches us that the New World can be anywhere. Those in her stories who hope to find it in America, and who flee their past, never really make it to the New World: the old tragedies follow them to a new backdrop.

Melinda Camber Porter is a writer and artist who lives in New York.

Cormac McCarthy's novels have always given the impression of taking place in a timeless America of jagged landscapes and defenceless frontiers, haunted by solitary types compulsive in their urge to fulfil a quest. It therefore comes as a shock to find somebody in his latest, *All the Pretty Horses*, asking: "How can Shirley Temple be getting divorced?"

Though set in the specific period of the early 1950s, this novel, too, conforms to type. It is the first volume in a trilogy about the youthful rancher John Cole, known as Grady. Confronted by an American future with no place for him and his kind, he sets off for Mexico in the company of Lacey Rawlins: they fall in, fatally, with one Jimmy Blevins.

As always, animals are described by McCarthy with evocative care. These are more than mere nags, just as pigs can never be the same after the magnificent account of an

Americans against the world

Christopher Hawtree

ALL THE PRETTY HORSES

By Cormac McCarthy
Picador, £14.99

TALLER WOMEN

By Lawrence Sanders
Fleming, £5.99 pbk original

SUICIDE BLONDE

By Doreen Green
Picador, £4.99 pbk original

attempt to catch them in McCarthy's earlier novel *Suttree*. Like the spare prose and the grim acts in *Child of God*, or the more baroque world of the Tennessee river in *Suttree*, this is impressive stuff. Taken together, however, the novel never quite hits the mark.

Such is McCarthy's way with language that it works against him. Every sentence is freighted with meaning — or, at least, has one wondering whether it might be. Often verbiage, sometimes one-word, these staccato sentences distance the characters from the reader and give undue prominence to the background. Pumpkins do not merely fly, but are "like great primeval birds welded out of iron by hearsay in a land perhaps where such birds once had been". It is difficult to know exactly what this means: by what stretching of meta-

phor can hearsay weld anything? Had McCarthy not relied on these leaky tropes, but been content with real simplicity, the novel might have gained the allegorical significance for which it evidently strives. This raw landscape is far removed from the equally troubled,

small-town North Carolina world of *Taller Women*. As in *The Night of the Weeping Women* and *Rootie Kazoole*, Lawrence Sanders confronts marital angst in no spirit of solemnity. The emergency ward where she works is the least of Monroe Hopkins's worries. She is unsettled by an apparent growth in the female physique. True or not, this impression has helped two marriages go awry, and matters are now only complicated by advances from a (short) young neighbour.

Work at the emergency ward (redesignated "trauma center") is "anonymous, urgent, and intense" and, as such, congenial: home is anything but. All this is put into another perspective by a friend's embroilment as a prison visitor. Farce is buttressed by concern with the preoccupations which drive people apart. If anything, however,

it is for the delineation of suburban artefacts, such as a jerry-built bathroom, that *Taller Women* remains in the mind. If Naumoff were a surveyor, estate agents would hire a hit-man.

Things are no easier over in the San Francisco of Doreen Green's *Suicide Blonde*, the cover of which might prompt some bookshelves to wrap it in cellophane. Customers thus inspired to part with a fiver will not be disappointed. The heroine, Jesse, is no blushing violet when it comes to telling of life with the bisexual Bell: gentlemen can have their way with her at a place called Carmen's, run by a friend of the enigmatic old Madam Pig, from whom she absorbs worldly wisdom of a dubious hue. Open the thing at random and there is sure to be some squalid image or other when read from cover to cover. The pretensions of Steinke's novel matter less, and it acquires some force from accurate observation of San Francisco's demi-monde.

The Japanese don't care to

John Gray

THE JAPANESE
Strange but not Strangers
By Joe Joseph
Viking, £15.99



Witty and candid: Joe Joseph

Western comment on Japan seems to be animated by alterophobia — the fear of the other, or that which is different from ourselves. Doubtless much in Japanese history and culture contributes to this western phobia, not least the fact that, alone among the great non-occidental civilisations, Japan was never colonised by western powers, and preserved intact, even after defeat in the second world war, its indigenous cultural traditions.

More to the point, perhaps, the Japanese achievement calls into question many of the assumptions of western civilisation, particularly as that is manifest in the United States. For many in the West, and especially in America, the western inheritance of Judaeo-Christianity and individualism, together with the idea of progress toward a universal civilisation, are not only good in themselves, but guarantors of western power and prosperity. The success of market institutions in the West is accounted for by their being underpinned by a culture of individualism, and, in America at least, by an enlightenment creed of historical optimism.

The example of Japan casts doubt on all of this. In Japan, market institutions flourish in a moral culture that is not individualist, that does not subscribe to the illusions of the enlightenment and which is untouched by Judaeo-Christianity. If the central tenets of the western world-view were true, Japan as we now see it could not exist. As it is, Japan is a living refutation of our inherited western world-view, especially as that has been crystallised into the American civil religion.

Joe Joseph, a journalist on *The Times*, was until recently the paper's Tokyo correspondent. His witty, candid and enlightening book on Japan and the Japanese seeks to render Japanese culture more readily intelligible to westerners without making it less strange to them. In this, *The Japanese: Strange but not Strangers* succeeds eminently, containing much more insight and food for thought than many a dry academic tome.

Western responses to the challenge posed by the Japanese example divide, roughly speaking, into those that deny its otherness, and those that recognise its strangeness to our preconceptions, but for that reason portray it as sinister. In the first category are "paleo-liberals" such as Milton Friedman, for whom Japan is simply a success story for economic *laissez-faire*. This view in effect, denies the otherness of Japan by assimilating it (contrary to the evidence) to a western model.

The other view — taken by "revisionist" interpreters of Japan such as Karl von Wolferen in his work *The Enigma of Japanese Power* — demonises Japan by representing it as locked in an inherently adversarial relationship with the West. Revisionist interpretations of this sort amount, in

practice, to little more than arguments for "fair" or "managed" trade — that is to say, for protectionism, and, like most Japan-bashing, they neglect the domestic causes of western economic weakness, such as underinvestment and declining educational standards. What both strands of thought have in common is an inability to perceive Japan as genuinely different from the West, and to let it remain different, without thereby becoming a threat to the West.

If Joseph's account can be faulted at all, it is perhaps in understating the magnitude of the challenges that will confront Japan in the coming decades. We are already seeing some signs of a chipping away of the lifetime job contracts whereby Japan has until now avoided the waste and human tragedy encompassed in the structural unemployment that disfigures the western economies.

Further, the American Structural Impediments Initiative on trade conflict incorporates a series of demands for the reform of the Japanese economy that would amount to an imposition on Japan of an American model of market institutions that is wholly unsuited to native Japanese traditions. If adopted, such proposals would institutionalise in Japan precisely the unfettered individualism, and the devaluation of common forms of life, that are the ultimate explanation of decline — even economic decline — in the West.

We must hope that Japan will resist the attempt to reorganise its economy according to a western model that already shows signs of obsolescence. It may be that the Japanese, no less than ourselves, need to grasp how different they are from us, if they are not to abandon the distinctive forms of economic life that have brought them unrivalled prosperity, and in so doing walk the western road to ruin.

How the Cold War was won

In August 1992 George Bush began his acceptance speech at the Republican convention in Houston with what Michael Beschloss and Strobe Talbott describe as "a lengthy hymn to himself as the hero of the end of the Cold War". This convention, Bush said, is "the first at which an American president can say, 'The Cold War is over, and freedom finished first'". These claims provoked the sharp rejoinder from then candidate Bill Clinton that Bush was like a rooster taking credit for the dawn.

The American public was unimpressed with Bush's stress on his foreign policy record. For them the Cold War was over. They were more concerned about his apparent lack of interest in domestic policy.

George Bush and James Baker, his friend and secretary of state, are now out of fashion, as those who have just left office often are. The global problems left over at the end of the Bush administration — in Bosnia, Russia and central Europe, and the continuation of Saddam Hussein in power — attracted more attention than the departing president's achievements.

Beschloss and Talbott offer a more balanced verdict. Beschloss already has a high reputation as a historian of the superpower era, most recently with his account of the Kennedy-Khrushchev relationship. Talbott has not only been a diplomatic journalist on *Time* magazine, but is also an old friend of President Clinton and has been

Peter Riddell

AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

The inside story of the end of the Cold War
By Michael Beschloss and Strobe Talbott
Little, Brown, £18.99

named as his roving ambassador to Russia and other CIS countries.

Their new book describes the Bush-Gorbachev relationship over the period of the end of the Cold War. They have had full access to the leading participants on both sides. This offers the advantage of immediacy in the vivid accounts of meetings and conversations, but the disadvantage of perhaps being too close to the presidents and their foreign ministers. It is very much an insider's account.

Bush was initially cautious about Gorbachev and the reforms in central Europe. On a visit to Poland and Hungary in July 1989, Bush was more sympathetic to the existing regimes than to some of the reformers. He "tended to be uncomfortable with political figures whose manners and aspirations seemed exotic. In his lexicon, *solid, proven and reliable* were adjectives of high praise. Names like Walesa and Yeltsin did not find their way into Bush's Rolodex as easily as Jaruzelski or Gorbachev."

The key to the changes was obviously what happened within the Soviet Union, together with Gorbachev's refusal to intervene to prevent change in eastern Europe in 1989. Nevertheless, as Beschloss and Talbott convincingly argue, "Bush made an indispensable contribution to the Cold War's end. From January 1989 until December 1991, he coaxed the Soviet Union toward worldwide surrender. He did so largely by exercising restraint and refraining from push-



Dummies at "Doomtown" on the Nevada nuclear test site: a recreation for the film *Nightbreaker*. From *American Ground Zero: The Secret Nuclear War* by Carole Gallagher (MIT Press, £24.95)

ing the Soviet government too hard, thus never giving Moscow a pretext to reverse course."

During the most sensitive period, Bush never gloated. He never appeared to be taking advantage of the Soviet leader's troubles. He continued to treat Gorbachev as the head of a superpower, as a partner in resolving regional conflicts, notably the Gulf war, even when the Soviet Union was in retreat.

Bush has been accused of not doing enough to help reform, either in the former Soviet Union or in central Europe. But parallels with the Marshall Plan aid for

western Europe in the late 1940s are misleading. With its huge budget and trade deficits, America in the late 1980s and early 1990s has not had the financial resources to offer such large-scale assistance, which anyway might have reinforced existing inefficient structures rather than helped the transformation to a market economy. Bush and his advisers never believed that Gorbachev and his staff could make the intellectual leap to understand how a market economy operates.

The most serious charge is that, despite many warnings and their

own initial instincts, Bush and Baker fell into the trap of relying too much on their personal relations with the Soviet leaders. They failed to take account of the weakening of Gorbachev's domestic base during 1991 and the rise both of competing centres of power and of more vigorous supporters of democratisation and economic reform such as Yeltsin. That is a fair criticism. But it does not detract from Bush's skilful handling of the end of the Cold War and the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet empire. History may be more generous than the critics.

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Decline and fall of white Rhodesia

Sousa Jamba praises an analysis of white Rhodesian society in the 1970s which shows how Ian Smith had to concede majority rule once military failure made whites lose faith in their mission

I can still remember the ground shaking as the bombs exploded around the Zambian capital, Lusaka, where I grew up. Bombers from Salisbury, then the capital of Rhodesia, had attacked several camps of the black nationalists fighting Ian Smith's white minority regime. Lusaka was awash with rumours about white soldiers who had painted themselves black hiding in shrubs waiting to attack. Many innocent tourists ended up at police stations just for being white. For us, Ian Smith was the ultimate villain. Some of my friends even said that Smith had one of his eyes replaced with that of a fish after his plane crashed when he was in the Royal Air Force (quite untrue).

Down in Salisbury, however, the attacks Smith's men were carrying out in Zambia and Mozambique were bolstering the morale of a quarter of a million whites committed to defend, as they maintained, the Rhodesian way of life. *Rhodesians Never Die* (the words are from a song composed in 1965 by Ian Smith's son-in-law Clem Thole) is a hearty and lucid account of how those whites coped with a decade of war leading to the creation of Zimbabwe in 1979-80.

This book resulted from rigorous research by Peter Godwin, a journalist with the BBC, and Ian Hancock, an academic in Australia. It is filled with many valuable observations on an important but neglected aspect of southern African history. The main premise of the book is that white Rhodesians had come to believe so much in their own myths they had failed to sense the unavoidable end to their social and political dominance.

Some white Rhodesians, the authors assert, thought they could win the war, because they had what they believed to be the best counter-insurgency force in the world. Although a significant part of the white establishment believed in compromising with the black majority, the army opted for a strategy of, as one commander cited here puts it, "grabbing by the balls" and "letting the hearts and minds follow".

The minds of the blacks did not, of course, follow. The armies of black nationalists, which some whites had derided as being composed of "garden boys" and "nannies", won more support from the African population, posing a bigger danger to white supremacy. Godwin and Hancock delve thoroughly into the world of the white Rhodesians, revealing the myths which sustained their self-deception to keep to "the servants, the jacarandas, the cheap beef, the avocados and the fine weather". According to the authors, politicians went around making exaggerated remarks about the greatness of Rhodesia to the white electorate which became increas-

RHODESIANS NEVER DIE

The Impact of War and Political Change on White Rhodesia c. 1970-1980

By Peter Godwin and Ian Hancock

Oxford: Clarendon Press, £45

ingly insecure about their highly privileged existence. The politics of white Rhodesia claimed that everything about their society was the best in the world. Ian Smith even said: "Our black Rhodesians are among the best blacks that you can find anywhere in the world."

White Rhodesians, according to Godwin and Hancock, believed themselves to be a cut above everyone else. According to the rhetoric, they had a loftier mission as the harbingers of Christian values and western civilisation in that part of the world. Rhodesian whites were not going to allow the permissiveness in other parts of the world to pollute their values. A censorship board was formed and Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* and copies of *Playboy* were banned from that outpost of civilisation.

There was, of course, as *Rhodesians Never Die* goes on to show, much evidence to disprove white

Rhodesia's claims about the upholding of western values. Despite all the proclamations about family values, white Rhodesians had one of the highest divorce rates in the world. There were many other contradictions. As some white politicians went on about the need to uphold civilised values, they also suggested in the same breath that black students who questioned European civilisation be dismissed.

Later, when the whole country became affected by the war, the defenders of civilisation proved to be as brutal as any other Third World regime. There was, for instance, the Arthur Kanodareka affair, in which the special branch of the armed forces recruited a black pastor to hand out poisoned clothing to young black nationalists who died agonising deaths.

As the war continued, white Rhodesians began to question what they were fighting for. In 1976, Ian Smith accepted the principle of majority rule: that is, as long as white interests were not threatened. To ensure this, Smith wheeled malleable black nationalist leaders, such as Bishop Abel Muzorewa, into his fold. Rhodesian whites believed that Muzorewa, and not Mugabe, whom they saw as a vile Marxist, was going to win the elections which resulted from the Lancaster House agreement. Mugabe won and thousands of whites trekked down to South Africa and elsewhere. By 1990, only 90,000 whites were left in Zimbabwe.

I hope that after *Rhodesians Never Die*, Peter Godwin and Ian Hancock might turn their faculties to the question of how black Zimbabweans have fared under Robert Mugabe's rule. Despite the harmonious relations between blacks and whites and Zimbabwe's relative stability, the deaths in the early 1980s of thousands in Matabeleland are still haunting the national conscience. Some poor blacks are even longing for the days of Ian Smith, who is no longer the devil many of us thought him to be.

Sousa Jamba's novel about Africa, *A Lonely Devil*, was published last month by Fourth Estate.



The end of the white Rhodesian dream. Salisbury, May 15, 1980: Ian Smith points out the prime minister's seat to Robert Mugabe

African queen who hunted with the night

Philippa Ingram

THE LIVES OF
BERYL MARKHAM
By Errol Trzebinski
Heinemann, £17.99

Indeed she was shattered to learn of her existence when about eight years old, having believed that her father's mistress Emily was her mother. Already wildly jealous of Emily whom her father adored, the discovery of this early desertion did her incalculable damage.

She ran wild on her father's ramshackle farm, speaking Swahili before English, running away from governesses and schools, to be out riding or hunting with her African companions. Trzebinski believes her early immersion in tribal culture explains many of her later eccentric traits. She does seem to have learnt to bear physical pain without flinching — she despised physical weakness in others — and not to show emotion, especially if it meant losing face. But to explain away her extraordinary sexual promiscuity as a typical African lack of inhibition is quite unconvincing.

Markham only cared for the opposite sex, and with her blonde glamour and flirtatious charms was irresistible to men. She was also, as all three husbands rapidly discov-

ered, incapable of fidelity, thinking nothing of running two or three lovers simultaneously. Her biographer mentions many of them, but I lost count halfway through. This is the disturbed behaviour of someone with very low self-esteem.

Not satisfied with her sexual success, she spent eight years trying to trap Karen Blixen's lover, Denys Finch Hatton. Markham went after her prey with a quite ruthless determination. She made friends with the unsuspecting Karen, so that she had ready access to the farmhouse where Finch Hatton stayed between safaris. She presented them with her own enormous honey-moon bed. In order to impress him, she had affairs with the Prince of Wales and his brother the Duke of

Gloucester (who paid her a lifelong annuity), and even learnt to fly in 1929 so that she could join Finch Hatton in his work.

Markham's biographer believes that Finch Hatton was the love of her life, and that his death in a flying accident, only some six weeks after their affair had finally begun, was her great tragedy. It is much easier to believe that her desire was fed by the challenge presented by his preference for an older, less physically attractive but much more educated and cultured woman. But his relationship with Blixen had finished when he took up with Markham, and surely she would have tired of him as rapidly as all the rest. What she never got over was that, thanks to the success of *Out of Africa*, it is Blixen, not herself, who is forever linked in the public mind with the romantic figure of Finch Hatton. This still rankled with Markham in her eighties, especially when *Out of Africa* was turned into a film.

There was literary rivalry with Blixen too. The latter's growing

reputation as a writer made the praise for *West with the Night* all the more delightful. But contemporaries in Kenya were always doubtful that she was the author: after all, she had never been known to put pen to paper or to read a book. Trzebinski proves beyond reasonable doubt that *West with the Night* was not her work, but the masterpiece of her third husband, the American Raoul Schumacher, a professional writer, on the basis of her notes and conversation. The deception came back to haunt her in her old age when the book was republished in 1984. Unable to admit the truth, she had to perforce with the uncomfortable charade.

Her son, Gervase, occupies another dark corner of her life. Born with a congenital deformity requiring surgery, he was rejected by her in the first week: she saw him only a few times in his life, never bothering to clear up the rumours surrounding his paternity which caused him grave embarrassment.

Completely self-centred, reckless with money, and with no permanent relationships to anchor her, it is not surprising that her declining years were friendless and poverty-stricken. She died in 1986, angry and alone. But her rivalry with Karen Blixen can go on beyond the grave: a film of *West with the Night* is planned, with Geena Davis possibly in the starring role.



Beryl Markham: brave, but a neurotic egotist on a grand scale

The first person to fly the Atlantic solo from east to west, Beryl Markham's reputation rests on her best-selling memoir, *West with the Night*. With its gripping descriptions of her life in Kenya in the first half of the century — learning to track and hunt animals, being mauled by a lion, training race horses, landing her Gypsy Moth at night in the bush with nothing but a few flares to guide her, and embarking on the terrifying flight to North America — it leaves the reader wanting to know much more about a remarkable, even heroic woman.

The memoir, however, omits all conventional autobiographical information, failing to mention such trifles as her three husbands, her son, or her mother. Errol Trzebinski supplies all the missing detail, and sets the record straight. The person who emerges from her researches is no heroine, rather a neurotic egotist on a grand scale.

Beryl was two when her father Charles Chuterbuck abandoned Leicestershire in 1904 to try his luck as a pioneer. Unfortunately his wife Clara did not take to living in a thatched mud hut or butchering her own game. She preferred fox hunting to elephant shooting, and before long ran off with a major who took her and her sickly son back to county life. Beryl did not see her mother again for 30 years.

Two cultures and the falling sickness

Epilepsy was the "sacred disease" Hippocrates wished to demystify, to reconstruct as ordinary illness. His wish was granted. Epilepsy is now regarded as a family of episodic — and highly treatable — disorders of the brain's electrical activity. It remains a

natural territory for students of altered awareness. Perhaps this interest in what it is like to have a fit lies at the back of Penelope Farmer's novel, the tale of an otherwise unromantic activity — a drug trial. The trial is intended to discover whether a drug of proven worth in

the developed world can be used with benefit among the poor, in Kenya and Ecuador. Its guiding spirit is Carter Jacoman, a dynamic and garrulous Canadian medic turned executive.

Jacoman enlists a neurologist, David Kern, as medical adviser,

and the neurologist's newly-wed wife Anna, as an assistant. But Anna has a secret kept from David for fear of discouraging his advances, ever more difficult to achieve as time goes on: her child by her first marriage has epilepsy.

The stage, and the marriage, are set for confrontation: of journalism by science, suffering by dispassion, breathless Anna by her incisive husband. Anna can't help using her own feelings to understand those of others, "acknowledging her private self in her work much more than my husband would think appropriate, as a scientist, as a doctor, as an Englishman". David cannot help doing so either, but dislikes the idea and scolds Anna "yourself is not science".

Depicted as a member of "an inexpressive and speechless race: perpendicular and unsociable", David seems to fit the bill. It takes the prospect of "seeing epilepsy in its untreated state", or a case of cysticercosis, to turn him on; he relaxes in the evenings with musical scores. But I felt for him. He has such talkative friends and relations. Anna even records her conversations with the unstoppable Jacoman and plays them back to David later — enough to make anyone perpendicular.

The novel focuses on work, a

worthy subject but tackled with such doggedness that the expeditions to Ecuador and Kenya are always in its shadow. In volcanic Ecuador, Anna had expected "a golden land to steal her heart away", but she learns "you should never expect to see mountains", and she rarely does.

Farmer's prose sometimes makes awkward reading: descriptions are dabbled together in a flurry of commas. Some details are improbable: it is hard to believe that a drug company would not know of the existence of major competing drugs. But by the end I found that I did care about Anna and her husband. I was glad that work let up just long enough to allow them a glimpse of mountains, of a kind: the novel closes with the birth of their daughter, and a father's death. Anna is surely right to point to the "futility of human remedies, against such realities".

Adam Zeman is a neurologist who has worked in Africa

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To apply, please ring or write for an application form, or send your full cv to John Chilton, Personnel Manager, Thomas's Europe, Oakwell Way, Birstall, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 9LJ. Tel: 0924 474373. We are an equal-opportunity employer.

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Assistant Director CBI Scotland

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The candidate will be a graduate or professionally qualified. The ability to write and present well is essential.

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OTE £60,000 + Car + Benefits

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OTE £40,000 + Car + Benefits

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The salaries above are OTE but since we as a company truly do subscribe to the principles of 'management by objective', the only salary lines drawn - will be drawn by you.

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to include CV quoting current salary to: Martin Harrison, Foundation Health Limited, Foundation House, 4 Hill Street, Mayfair, London W1X 7FB, by 30th April.

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Please ring Chris Bond on (0296) 662978, Sunday 2pm - 6pm or Monday 10am - 2pm, or write to Chesterfield Consultants, Suite 500, Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, London W1R 5FA. Ref: CB/ST1.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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THE ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

PC Applications Development Central London Competitive package

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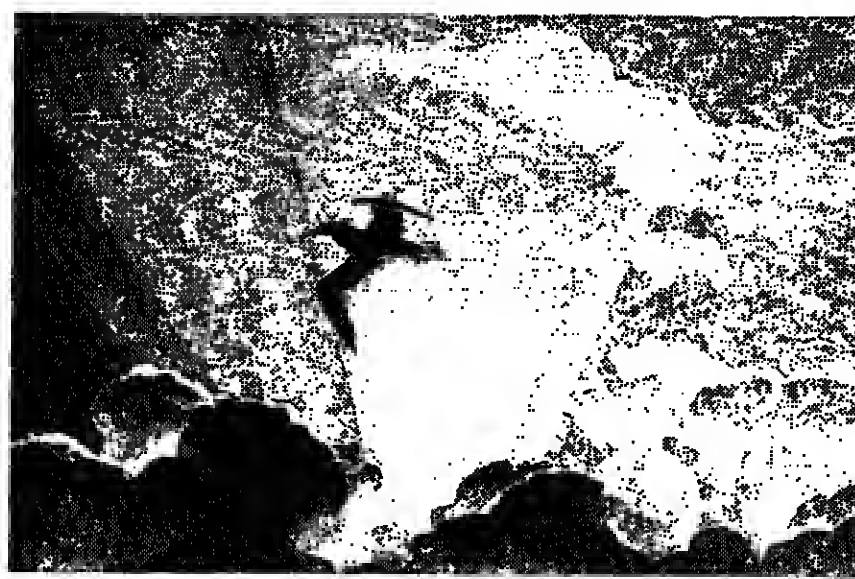
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MANAGEMENT

Mismatch of minds

Civil servants have never been more in need of guidelines, David Walker reports

A sub-committee of the House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee chaired by Giles Radice is about to start hearings into the "role of the higher Civil Service, including relations between ministers and civil servants".

It sounds bland, or merely a repeat of unimpeachable committee reports. But the MPs start their work whipped along by an urgent sense that things are going badly wrong at the very heart of the machine. And they are not to be trifled with — both Labour's Mr Radice and John Watts, the Conservative chairman of the full committee, are experts in the ways of Whitehall.

It is Whitehall's version of a problem apparent throughout the public sector in local government, the health service, the BBC — as the drive for new, entrepreneurial management meets the continuing necessity of ensuring fairness, and rule-governed adherence to codes of public conduct. Simply to call it an ethical crisis would be wrong, says Sue Richards, former adviser to the committee and now head of the Public Management Foundation. "We are in a profound transition, looking for a new kind of ethics for new public management," she says.

Beneath a surface rubbed smooth by the outward calm of permanent secretaries, Whitehall is seething with tension between old ideas of public service and new demands. "The idea of a career civil service is unravelling," says William Plowden, the former director-general of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, and another informal adviser to the committee. "There is an urgent need to codify what is expected of civil servants as we move to a new relationship between public and private sector, and short-term contracts. A common ethical culture has to be preserved in these new circumstances."

Recent public anxiety about ethics in Whitehall has focused on the Matrix-Churchill affair — the arms for Iraq affair — and the question of Treasury payments to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for legal fees. Market-testing and privatisation have shown that civil servants are not all pillars of Victorian rectitude when confronted with the prospect of personal gain.



But worry goes much wider than individual cases of graft — which are still pretty exceptional, thanks in part to the policing work of the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee.

"After four successive Conservative election victories, we're asking whether civil servants still retain a sense of balance," Mr Radice says. His committee's work could go deep. The problem in the Lamont affair was not what Sir Peter Middleton, the Treasury permanent secretary, ordered but the fact that there were no ground rules for what was appropriate. Nobody actually knows — in any publicly identifiable form at least — just what is expected of civil servants.

"Every year the statutory basis on which the army operates is renewed," says Professor Peter Hennessy of Queen Mary and Westfield College, "and we're even

thinking about putting the Security Service on a statutory footing."

"What have we got to tell us how half a million civil servants should behave? We need a Civil Service Act defining what the Civil Service is for — which would give officials redress if ministers did ask them to cut corners."

The Cabinet Office produces a document entitled "Questions of Procedure for Ministers", which is one of the few sources to which an uncertain civil servant or minister can turn. In paragraph 55 there is an immortal line. Ministers, it says, "have a duty to refrain from asking or instructing civil servants to do things they should not do". If the Treasury and Civil Service Committee sub-committee could move even a little way into identifying just what it is civil servants should and should not do, its next report could be dynamite.

Soaring insurance costs have made risk management vital

Town halls shape up



Lessons to learn: Ken Kennedy in a burnt-out Surrey school

In the past year, local authorities have been forced to learn very quickly about risk management. Insurance premiums have doubled and MML, the authorities' own insurance company, was forced into a takeover.

In addition, escalating claims relating to schools, old and young people's homes and police vehicles have meant that authorities are finding that they have to pay the first £100,000 of every claim. Such developments have made local authorities realise that risk management — controlling the number and levels of claims — is something that must be taken very seriously.

Typically, Surrey County Council's insurance bill has gone from £1.6 million in 1990 to £5 million today. Colin Wright, Surrey's assistant treasurer and head of financial services, says: "It isn't just that we are paying more in premiums because the number of claims is rising. Now we are having to pay the first £100,000 of every claim, which has made us think very hard about the whole subject."

"If you control risks, you control insurance costs. Insurance money is essentially unproductive money. Every penny we save can be spent on the productive services we are here to provide."

Three years ago, Surrey appointed Ken Kennedy as risk manager and he has spent his time integrating his function into the business of the county council.

"It has to be a corporate decision, if decisions are taken at too junior a level then it can end in only lip service being paid," he says. "My first mistake was to chair the risk management committee. It has to be the chief executive."

Sometimes, risk management is just about locking doors, putting in fire breaks or making sure a receptionist has a panic button and an escape route. Sometimes, however, it is more fundamental, such as abandoning

a building or making drivers and their roanagers responsible for at least part of their own accident claims.

"We have a system of developed budgets, which makes it both harder and easier. We cannot order, only persuade. We are using a stick and carrot approach. We have already installed a system where all units pay the first £150 of every claim. That is quite a lot out of an old people's day centre or a primary school budget."

But Mr Kennedy has done more than take risk management to every corner of his authority's 1,400 buildings, 26,000 staff and 3,000 vehicles; he has formed the Association of Local Authority Risk Managers (Alarm). In

its first year, it has recruited 200 members.

An important function of Alarm is for risk managers to exchange experiences of the best way of integrating their function throughout the authority, the most cost-effective information systems and the changing patterns of claims.

Schools today have a one in eight chance of being damaged by fire every year. In Surrey recently, 8,000 gallons of heating oil was stolen from a school.

As the insurance premiums of an increasing number of councils come up for renewal, so more authorities are realising that they have to take action. Not least because the new, tougher insurance regime insists that without risk management there can be no cover.

Bill Sulman is Northamptonshire County Council's principal insurance officer. "When I started in 1988 there was no interdepartmental co-ordination of risk management," he says. "When our fire claims rose from £500,000 to £1 million a year, we knew something more systematic had to be done."

"We now spend £500,000 a year on reducing risks and this programme will go on until 1996. We are also training risk managers at all of the council's premises. So far, we have trained 500. Alarm is important because liaison with other groups means that we do not waste time in reinventing the wheel."

Mr Kennedy adds: "In the end, introducing real risk management is about changing a culture and that is always difficult. Surrey and others may have bitten the bullet but many authorities are just paying out larger insurance premiums and rooming claims without realising there is a lot they can do."

HUGH THOMPSON

Details: Association of Local Authority Risk Managers, c/o Ken Kennedy, Surrey County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DL.

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A new post of Director is being appointed who will have a proven track record of management and supervisory skills, together with qualifications in youth work and counselling. The Director will be required to manage and implement a new development policy resulting from a recent Managers' Review. The post will carry a salary in the region of £20,000. Drop In was founded 14 years ago by Croydon Parish Church and in the Director we look for personal sympathy in the roots of the project. Details of the post may be obtained from the Rev'd Canon Colin Hill, Vicar of Croydon, Parish Office, Church Street, Croydon CR0 1RN

فكرنا من الأصل

Oxford students bring cold comfort to Durham's warm-up

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

WHERE are the songs of spring? With the dawn of every cricket season, even this one, there comes hope of new blood for the old ceremony. Particularly this one. The arrival of the Australian touring party at the end of next week will at long last release cricket lovers from the grip of a painful winter. We might not be able to do with the Australians, but we cannot do without them.

In these fashion-conscious times, it can be difficult to see where cricket, our oldest and

most venerated team game, fits into the altered design of sporting life. Perhaps it is like the Church of England, something to which many people feel a kinship without observing the trappings of the true believer.

There are similarities. When the Archbishop of Canterbury appeared on a recent video wearing a baseball hat, he must have nudged a few more waverers towards Rome. Apparently, it is all to do with that weasel word, *relevance*.

Yesterday's play, in the tree-

lined splendour of The Parks, had nothing to do with relevance, and was scarcely the worse for it. Praise be, two of the Oxford students were Harlequins caps of the kind Douglas Jardine sported when he wanted to goad the colonials. There are those who pool-pool traditions, many of them grander than the old-boy network, but this is a game which would wither without them. Sadly, too many modern players and administrators have forgotten that, so we end up with sponsors' logos on the outfield.

In its understated way, a secret to all save the couple of hundred initiates who gathered here and at Fenners, this day marked the start of the season. Until the first round of four-day championship matches begins a fortnight today, it is all a bit of a phoney war as county players roll up to the ancient universities and indulge themselves.

Apart from the tourist and university matches, Wednesday will now be a free day for first-class cricket. If Durham continue to bat as poorly as they did here, any days off will be devoted to naughty-boy

nets. To be bowled out by Oxford University for 191 almost amounts to a dereliction of professional duty, even if they ended the day in a stronger position.

Oxford could do with a few more bowling days like this, and Cambridge, too. In the super-duper world of the modern game, when England dress up in the strip of Telford United, and sight-screens are draped funeral black for the revamped Sunday, it is all they can do to keep their heads above water. Jason Gallian, Oxford's captain, won the toss, opened

the bowling, and at 5.40pm, was striding to the crease with a bat in his hand; every inch the man for every situation, the Alec Stewart of university cricket. Six balls later, he was on his way back. Bow to John Wood, the first of five wickets Durham reclaimed before stumps.

Nobody let Gallian down in the field. Rob MacDonald, one of seven Keble men in the side, broke the back of the innings with three wickets before lunch; Gregor MacMillan twirled out three more, and Lovell, symmetrically, held three near slip

catches. They will not enjoy many fuller days. New boys of every age are always keen to make a good impression early on. Graeme Fowler, in his first innings as a Durham batsman, made a second run after nudging Gallian behind point. He was beaten by Keble's throw, and wandered off looking like a man who had just bought a Hoover.

Jimmy Daley, who ended last season in the middle order, has a place to establish, and will not lack opportunity. Without his patient 41 — he

was dropped at the wicket before he had scored — the Durham innings would have looked more ignoble. Berry, the last man out for 33, again gave notice of his all-round qualities.

"Unhappy is the land that needs heroes," Usher non-sense. The England team is currently good for a laugh, and the Pakistanis are making miserable noises in the Caribbean. If the game is to renew itself, we need some new faces in the old heroic mould. Yesterday, Jan Botham was fishing in Scotland.

Gooch steels himself to continue at helm

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Gooch is emerging from one of the darkest of tortured self-deprecation that punctuate his career, and will undoubtedly continue as captain of the England cricket team against Australia this summer. The timing and length of his appointment, however, are less predictable.

England's cricket committee, chaired by Ted Dexter, has still not formally met since the end of the deflating winter tour, but now that Keith Fletcher, the team manager, has returned from a skiing holiday to file his tour report, the post-mortem is likely to take place next week.

Such is the length of their agenda, and the need to resolve sensitive contractual issues raised by complaints about the team's appearance on tour, that the captaincy will not immediately be discussed. An announcement could still be delayed until early May.

Gooch is not concerned by this. He, after all, is in the position of being considered by those who matter to be indispensable. Despite having presided over a remarkably unsuccessful tour of India, he could name his own date to stand down as captain.

Not for the first time, however, Gooch has complicated the matter. Yesterday, he gazed out on the very English splendour of the Hurlingham club and wondered aloud if the Test team would be better off with a new leader.

"All through my career, I have tried to do what is best for the team," he said. "Once or twice, this has involved offering to stand down as a player. After this tour, I honestly wasn't sure if the team's best interests would be served by me carrying on as captain."

"I have had time to think and I have had a long heart-to-heart talk with Ted [Dex-

ter]. Now it is up to the committee. If they think it is right for me to go on, so be it. But whether I do the job or somebody else takes over, there is a hard summer ahead. "The India tour was disappointing and I fear it has set us back quite a way. India played very well but we didn't make enough runs and we never looked like bowling them out. The guys tried. I am sure of that, but if we are going to beat Australia this summer we need to have a couple of bowlers capable of taking 25 wickets in a series."

Gooch, who lost a stone in weight through sickness while on tour, will be reappointed for the bulk of the Australian series, at least, although the selectors will be mindful of his apparently firm decision not to tour again and may want to introduce a successor before the end of the summer.

Gooch has also reconsidered the possibility of dropping down the batting order for both England and Essex. "I might do it in a few one-day games," he said, "but I want to go on opening in first-class cricket for this season at least."

After a lunch yesterday to launch Cornhill Insurance's sixteenth year of sponsoring Test cricket in England, Gooch accepted the England player of the Year Award. He was not the winner, but Chris Lewis and Alec Stewart, who shared the honour and £6,000, were able to attend.

Marylebone Cricket Club will sponsor the Minor Counties Cricket Association knock-out competition, to be known as the MCC Trophy, for three years.

Derbyshire prosper

DERBYSHIRE have never prepared for a season so vigorously as they have this year (Ivo Tennant writes).

They were contending with pace and bounce in Bermuda before coming to the Fens, where the bowling is gentler, the pitches softer and the temperature not to be compared either. They prospered, nonetheless, to reach 380 for five at the close against Cambridge University.

There were centuries by John Morris, for whom every season seems to be an important one, and Tim O'Gorman, who has the concentration to

make a decent score here regularly.

In most senses it was a typical spring day at Fenners: lots of sweaters, plenty of runs from the visiting batsmen and keen out-cricketers by the undergraduates.

In one sense it differed. A lap-top computer was used in the scorers' box, not without some difficulty since the hamburger van was operating off the same power circuit. A chart of Morris's innings, which could be obtained at the push of a key, showed how many of his runs came in the arc between mid-on and mid-off.

Gold Shot prevails in eventful Times final

JOHN POTTER



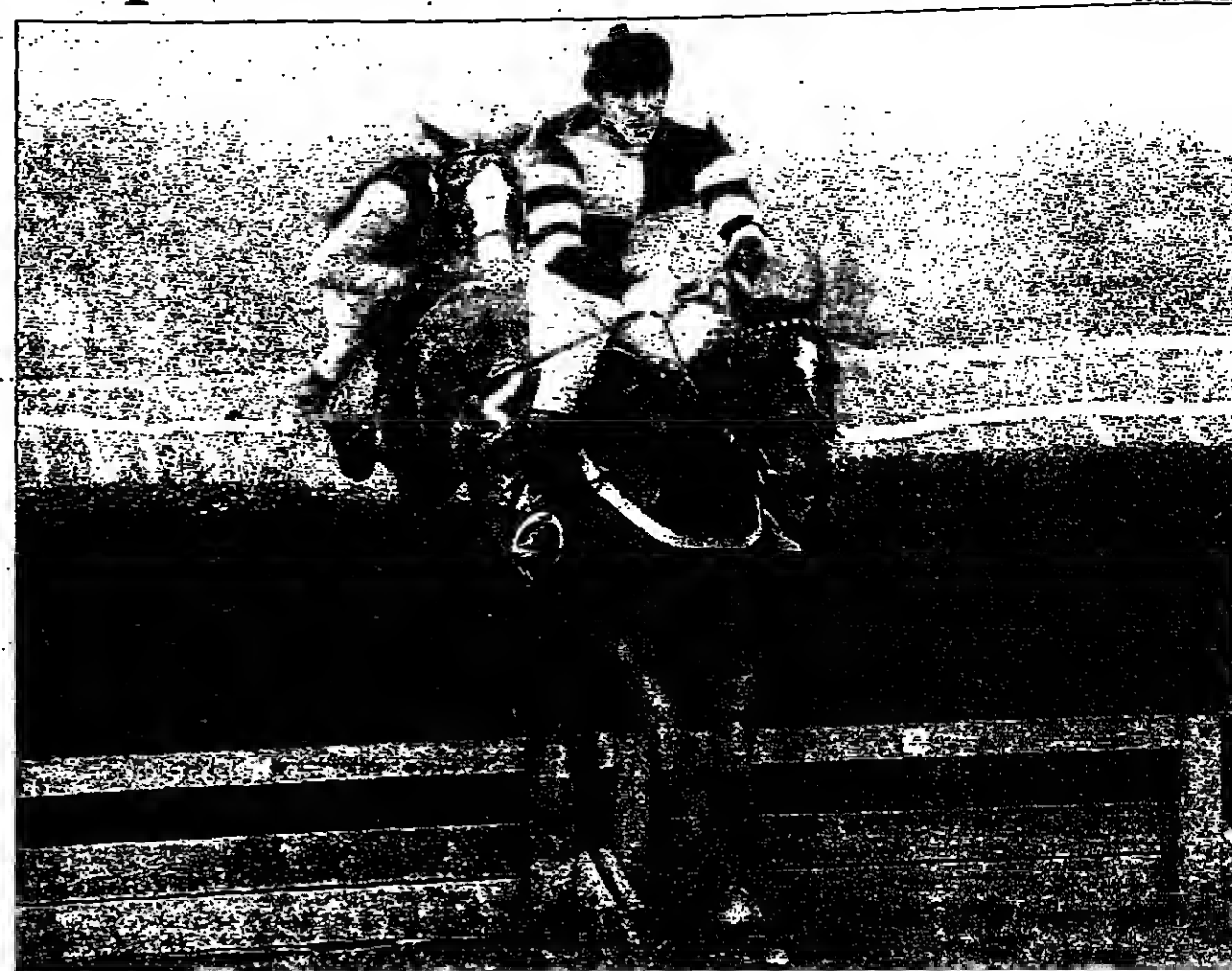
By JULIAN MUSCAT

GOLD Shot demonstrated all the qualities required of an up-and-coming young steeple-chaser when holding off the spirited challenge of Royal Day in the Times Rising Stars Hunter Chase Final at Worcester yesterday. Tim Jones drove the seven-year-old clear to win by one and a half lengths with the mare, Tamar Lass, rallying late to snatch second by a neck.

Gold Shot's trainer, Peter Bowen, from Haverfordwest, immediately endorsed the objective of the series by announcing he would aim his charge at next year's Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham, a race won by Double Silk this year and the ill-fated Gold Cup second, Rushing Wild, before him.

Gold Shot, in receipt of 21lb, was beaten two and a half lengths by Sheer Jet in the Nottingham qualifier last month, but the ground was riding fast on that occasion. "He needs this ground," Bowen said. "He hasn't had it all season."

Jones kept Gold Shot to the wide outside throughout, forcing ground to the front-running Many A Slip. Royal Day was also prominent but the Jockey, who had the beating of Gold Shot at the



Shot on target: Gold Shot, ridden by Tim Jones, clears the last on his way to victory at Worcester

weights, confined his chance to theory when he fell at the first of the 16 fences over the two miles seven furlong race.

Many A Slip still looked dangerous when, approaching the last on the far side, he was pulled up with a tendon injury, leaving Gold Shot and Royal Day to settle down to their protracted duel. Tamar Lass, winner of the best turned out award, could never strike a blow at the winner, but this was an undeniably promising

effort from the inexperienced mare.

Gold Shot's cause was helped by Royal Day's less than economical jumping and there was little doubt that he would maintain his lead up the long run-in. The last fence had been dolled off, making a run-in of more than two furlongs.

Jones, brother of Pip Nash, who had a bad fall riding over hurdles last season, had no doubt he would win from

some way out. "He's a careful jumper and he was in front too long," he said. In a vignette which reflects the growing professionalism in point-to-point circles, Jones explained the decision to race wide: "I spoke to Richard Dunwoody and he told me where to find the best ground."

The inaugural Rising Stars final attracted the biggest field of the day and provided an eventful contest. The series is off to a good start.

| RACE DETAILS | |
|---|--|
| Going: heavy | 400 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE FINAL (Worcester £2,000 2m 7f) |
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| Royal Day 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 3rd | Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 4th |
| Sheer Jet 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 5th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 6th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 7th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 8th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 9th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 10th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 11th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 12th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 13th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 14th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 15th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 16th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 17th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 18th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 19th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 20th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 21st | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 22nd |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 23rd | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 24th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 25th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 26th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 27th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 28th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 29th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 30th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 31st | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 32nd |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 33rd | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 34th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 35th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 36th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 37th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 38th |
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| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 43rd | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 44th |
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| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 47th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 48th |
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| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 67th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 68th |
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| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 71st | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 72nd |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 73rd | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 74th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 75th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 76th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 77th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 78th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 79th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 80th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 81st | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 82nd |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 83rd | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 84th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 85th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 86th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 87th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 88th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 89th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 90th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 91st | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 92nd |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 93rd | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 94th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 95th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 96th |
| Many A Slip 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 97th | Double Silk 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 98th |
| Rushing Wild 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 99th | Gold Shot 7-12-0 Mr T Jones (4-1) 100th |

SPORTS LETTERS

Law foisted on world game without prior consultation

From Mr J. L. Wall

Sir, The vote of no confidence in the Welsh Rugby Union General Committee could pale into insignificance if, as widely predicted, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) feels obliged to ratify the controversial and undemocratically imposed experimental rule and maul law when it meets in Edinburgh later this month after the World Sevens.

It is not only that the experiment is, for so many, fundamentally flawed, or that at the highest level of the game all the leading international coaches except New Zealand's Laurie Mears, have now expressed outright opposition or serious reservation. It is that this was a law foisted on the world game, without prior

consultation or debate, for which there was no intrinsic case, call or clamour and which apparently was little more than the brainchild of a small group of Australian administrators led by one Dr Roger Vanderfield.

That they were initially intent, so the story goes, in countering the traditional appeals of Australian Rules and Aussie League, a past-time for which there seems no close season whatsoever, down under, only lends credence to the complaint that it was prematurely and improperly imposed on the world game without the due process of consultation and consensus, it beholds any international body to obtain, if it is to retain full credibility.

There is also a need to be certain to what extent (if any, of course) the role of the IRFB is being predetermined by the Southern Hemisphere Rugby Alliance (SHRA) which has already met in Wellington last month in advance of the IRFB's annual meeting. I would be quite wrong, I contend, if the board were presented with a *fait accompli* or pre-established core of set opinion, and if this was the case, would only further fuel concern over lack of consultation.

Sadly, it would seem, even fears cannot be restricted to the ruck and maul. The southern hemisphere has already unilaterally sanctioned the introduction of tactical substitutes and commercial "quarter-time" water breaks

for its Super-Ten competitors, action, contrary to board rules, and which surely and strictly must place those responsible outside the laws they are bound to uphold, and above their starlings.

The course back to an even keel should be obvious and in the first place, the ruck-maul experiment should be returned to the "Four-Year Bin" from whence it came, and a broader debate on its merits instituted, so that a more democratically arrived at decision can be put in place in 1996 that does not bypass so much leading opinion as has clearly happened to date.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY L. WALL,
14, Cavendish Road,
Barnet, Herts.

Under fire

From Mr R. Bates

Sir, D. N. Dow, as a German, (Sports Letter, April 8) should not cast aspersions too readily at linesmen.

In the closing moments of the 1954 World Cup final in Bern between West Germany and Hungary, it was again a linesman who flagged offside Puskas's seemingly-godlike equalising goal, so enabling West Germany to become champions.

Yours faithfully,
R. R. BATES,
132, Lord Sefton Way,
Gt Alcock,
Merseyside.

From Mr S. E. Rice

Sir, Do I detect a whiff of sour grapes from Mr Dow, who suggests the linesman who allowed England's third goal in the 1966 World Cup final has done more for English football than anyone in the last 100 years?

After all, would it really have made that much difference if England had won the match 3-2 instead of 4-2?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON RICE,
643, Great West Road,
Isleworth, Middlesex.

From Mr C. Sord

Sir, As a spectator at Wembley

ety might well benefit in so many ways; and the young, in particular, might strive to emulate better role models.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RAYNER,
Horseshoe Cottage,
Markbeech,
Nr. Enderbridge,
Kent.

Look ahead

From Mr T. Ballard

Sir, I, too, agree with E. M. Hall (April 8) that rowing does reflect some of the skills and attitudes we require as a nation if we are to succeed in a competitive world.

However, speaking as a regular racing canoeist, I feel that one reason that the country does not succeed as well it might is the fact that we train some of the country's finest brains to look backwards at what has been achieved in the past rather than to the future and the challenges ahead.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY BALLARD,
12, Nailsworth Close,
Worcester.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046

Honest intent

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Well, Simon Barnes (report, April 6) has said his bit about the racing authorities.

I don't know whether he even does anything other than write about what others do but if he does, I hope he will be credited with honest intent and not accused of the "self-serving mindlessness" which he attributes to the racing establishment, of whom he writes as if they were enemies of society, reckless about hurt and disaster.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9, Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex.

THE TIMES

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Latest results from Tuesday

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Oxford 1, Sheffield 1.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge 1, Watford 2. Second division: Blackpool 2, Chester 0. Third division: Burnley 1, Port Vale 1. Fourth division: Rochdale 1, Bury 2. Scarborough 0, Colchester 1. Torquay 0, Barnet 1.

GM Vauxhall Conference: Slough 1, Wycombe 1.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee United 0, Aberdeen 3.

WORLD CUP: Asian zone qualifying round: Group C: North Korea 4, Indonesia 0. Vietnam 2, Singapore 3.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Austria 2, Bulgaria 0 (in Moscow). Denmark 1, Germany 4 (in Copenhagen). Luxembourg 0, Russia 6 (in Luxembourg). Romania 1, Cyprus 0 (in Bucharest).

SPANISH CUP: Quarter-final, Second leg: Barcelona 3, Real Valladolid 0 (agg 6-1).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 3, Portsmouth 0. Swindon Town 2, Chelsea 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Wednesday 2, Aston Villa 2. Stoke City 3, Manchester United 3. Second division: Coventry City 1, Southport United 2. Exeter City 0, Preston North End 1. Wigan Athletic 3, Hull City 0.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Wrexham 3, Wrexham and Elion 1.

SMITHS OF IRELAND LEAGUE: Ballyclare 1, Unifed 0. Coleraine 0, Buncrana 0. Clontarf 1, Derry City 1. Carrick Rangers 1, Carrick Rangers 1. Carrick Rangers 1, Carrick Rangers 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, Second leg: National 0, Manchester City 1 (agg 1-0). Carrick Rangers 1, Carrick Rangers 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English side of North Wales: Blackpool 2, Coventry 1. Reading 0, Sheffield 3. Haverhill 0, Bedford 0. Vale of White Horse 2, Bury 2. East Berke 1, Peterborough 1. Bishop Auckland 0, Shrewsbury 0. Altrincham 0, Coleraine 0. Carrick Rangers 1, Carrick Rangers 1. Carrick Rangers 1, Carrick Rangers 1.

MISSISSIPPI: Heavyweight: Larry Holmes (US) vs Ken Lukatski (Can) 1st 7th round

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Stein relishes management challenge

Keith Pike discovers how Edwin Stein has risen up into the hallowed ranks of football management

Fifteen years after the appearance of England's first black footballer was greeted by media hysteria, the country's first black manager has slipped almost unnoticed into his office. Two weeks after being asked to pick up the pieces at Barnet, Edwin Stein is neither surprised nor disappointed.

Why should Stein's appointment be viewed as less significant than Viv Anderson's debut for his country in November 1978, when every eye and every camera was focused on the Nottingham Forest full back as he emerged from the tunnel at Wembley? Perhaps it is because Stein is only acting as a caretaker, and may yet decide to rejoin Barry Fry, his mentor, with Southend United. Or is it that England, after another decade and a half of sporting black excellence is now a fully integrated, multi-racial haven? Stein would be happier if it was the latter.

There is still a cross-section of the public which feels that black people are great athletes but have not necessarily got the mental abilities for coaching or management," he said. "I dispute that but I can understand it, even if we have taken such huge strides in the last 20 years to get away from that mode of thinking."

"As far as I am concerned, I want to be recognised for the work I do. It would be brilliant if my appointment gives some hope to others but I don't hold myself up as a role model. My colour has never been a source of motivation."

It is a view with which Brendan Basson, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, sympathises. Basson was once dubbed by Ron Atkinson, the then West Bromwich Albion manager, as one of his "Three Degrees".

Cyrille Regis and Laurie Cunningham made up the trio — and he believes that a greater test of clubs' commitment to equality is yet to come. Stein has been on the staff at



Sit tight: Stein contemplates the job ahead of him after taking over as caretaker manager of Barnet, the third division leaders

Underhill for 12 years — the first eight as player, the next four as player-coach — and could be said to have got his chance by default when Fry finally turned his back on Barnet. "The acid test will come as the more prominent black players come to the end of their careers and send off their management CVs," Basson said. "There has been a natural progression for Edwin but would a black Steve Coppell get the Crystal Palace job or a black Graeme Souness at Liverpool?"

Stein's own CV bears little comparison to Anderson's for Forest, Arsenal, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednes-

day read Edgware Town, Luton reserves, Harrow Borough, Dagenham and Barnet. Not for him the luxurious life of the Premier League. On Tuesday, it was meet Barnet 10.30am, travel to Devon, beat Torquay United, a quick pint and a curry on the coach, and back in north London by 3am; all supervised with articulate determination.

David Howell, for one, will not forget the rebuke he got for arriving late at the ground: the first black manager in England letting the first black captain of England's semi-professional team know who was boss.

Stein was brought up in

Cape Town: pleasant enough at first, with his father, Isaiah, a shoe factory manager and relatively affluent. But as apartheid's grip tightened, the wealth disappeared, followed by prison sentences for both Isaiah and Lilian Stein, his mother, house arrest, his father's hunger strike and, in 1968, the journey from South Africa to Paddington, London, for the by now destitute family Stein: mother, father and seven brothers. Little sister, Merle, 14, arrived later.

"The first thing that hit us was the weather," Edwin said. "It's one thing being warm and poor. There's nothing like being cold and poor. It was no fun."

Nor was working as an assistant buyer in a chain store or qualifying as a plumber, as Stein did before football took over.

Six years after Viv Anderson's debut, Stein No. 3, Brian — who now takes his orders from Edwin as a Barnet striker — won his only England cap. In 1988, he scored Luton Town's winner in the League Cup final against Arsenal at Wembley, Stein No. 7. Mark is the No. 9 getting the goals that should see Stoke City to the second division title. Bert is a tennis coach "who really wants to be a social worker". Hugh is studying social sciences at college.

Thirty-seven, single and single-minded, Edwin dedicates his family's success to his parents. "I give them more satisfaction than us," he said. "But if my appointment also motivates other people to think that another bastion has been broken down, it will mean a lot to me."

With his commitment to attacking teams built on skill not physique — his favourite player is Hoddle and his favourite team the Chelsea of Ossmond and Hudson — Stein's emergence as a manager could prove the most positive fall-out from the Barnet fiasco. And the most significant.

Underhill for 12 years — the first eight as player, the next four as player-coach — and could be said to have got his chance by default when Fry finally turned his back on Barnet. "The acid test will come as the more prominent black players come to the end of their careers and send off their management CVs," Basson said. "There has been a natural progression for Edwin but would a black Steve Coppell get the Crystal Palace job or a black Graeme Souness at Liverpool?"

Stein's own CV bears little comparison to Anderson's for Forest, Arsenal, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednes-

SPORT IN BRIEF

Oosterhuis makes surprise return

PETER Oosterhuis, 44, the former No. 1 European golfer, makes a surprise return to the Volvo PGA Tour tomorrow. He plays in the £300,000 Rome Masters, his first event since the 1984 English Open. "I'm deadly serious about this," Oosterhuis, who received a sponsor's invitation, said. "I don't know how long it will take for my game to come back. Things I used to do naturally don't come so easily nowadays."

The first prize of £50,000 this week exceeds the £32,127 Oosterhuis accumulated when he finished top of the European money-list in 1974. Barry Lane is one of the main contenders, along with David Gifford, Mark James, Sam Torrance, Costantino Rocca, Jim Payne and Frank Nobilo.

Courier feels pressure

TENNIS: Jim Courier said after beating Jeremy Bates, of Britain, 6-1, 6-1 at the Hong Kong Open yesterday that losing his world No. 1 ranking to Pete Sampras was troubling him. "I'm trying not to explode. I want to keep my emotions in check and see what happens," he said. Amos Mansdorf, of Israel, who last week beat Courier in Japan, where Sampras went to No. 1, said: "Jim has more to lose than Pete. Jim has to defend more points and this means if he loses he can drop further down the rankings than Pete. I think the pressure can get to him." Bates teamed with Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, to beat the top seeds, Brad Pearce and Byron Talbot, in the quarter-finals of the doubles.

Positive approach

ATHLETICS: Rob de Castella, the only man to finish four Olympic marathons, said yesterday that he was hoping to be among the frontrunners on Sunday in the NutraSweet London Marathon, his last serious race at the distance (David Powell writes). De Castella, 36, is an outsider for victory after finishing 26th in the Barcelona Olympic Games but only two years ago ran 2hr 9min 42sec to win in Rotterdam. "I think I can get out there with the lead pack and be in a position to be competitive for the last ten kilometres," the Australian said.

Holmes beats Lakusta

BOXING: Larry Holmes resumed his comeback by stopping Ken Lakusta, the Canadian heavyweight, in seven rounds in a non-championship bout in Bay St Louis, Mississippi, on Tuesday. Holmes, 43, the former world champion, in his third bout of the year, improved his record since coming out of retirement to nine wins and one defeat. He lost to Evander Holyfield in June. Holmes, 43, hopes to fight Riddick Bowe, the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion, or Lennox Lewis, who holds the World Boxing Council title.

Koloto's bleak future

RUGBY LEAGUE: The career of the Tongan forward, Emosi Koloto, 28, appears to be at an end following his withdrawal from the Widnes side for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against Wigan on May 1 because of a serious back injury. "The only hope is a London surgeon who has saved the careers of [rugby] union players with similar injuries," Phil Larder, the Widnes coach, said yesterday. Wigan, who need to beat Castleford tomorrow to win the Stones Bitter championship, expect to have the internationals, Phil Clarke and Andrew Farrar, back for the game.

Bewley's new post

SWIMMING: Keith Bewley is to leave Wigan Wasps to be head coach to the City of Birmingham after the departure in January of Barry Prime, who is now breaststroke coach at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Bewley is known primarily for his success at coaching women, having consistently placed swimmers on the national team during the last 15 years, including the Olympic medal-winner, June Croft. Birmingham's main strength, however, is in its men, leaving Bewley to answer critics who point to his lack of success at producing men for the national team.

Drugs ban for Cuban

ATHLETICS: The Cuban discus thrower, Hilda Elisa Ramos, who finished sixth in the Olympic Games last year and won a silver medal at the 1991 Pan-American Games, has been banned for four years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. An IAAF spokeswoman said yesterday that Ramos, 28, had tested positive for methandolone. Negusse Roba, who coached some of Ethiopia's best distance runners over two decades including Abebe Bikila, Mamo Wolde and Miruts Yifter, has died at the age of 54 after a long illness, it was reported yesterday.

Fifa prepares to restore law and order

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TODAY, on two fronts — in the committee room and on the field — Fifa hopes to prove that the rule of law is capable of being restored to world football. "This is an important day for us to show that cheating will no longer be tolerated," Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of the governing body, said.

In the morning, the Fifa referees' committee meeting in Zurich is expected to confirm a panel of professional referees to operate on all continents for important matches leading towards the 1994 World Cup finals.

In the evening, in Lyons, Egypt and Zimbabwe replay, on neutral turf, the World Cup qualifying tie that Egypt origi-

nally won 2-1 before it was annulled because sections of the 120,000 crowd in Cairo's national stadium pelted players and officials with stones. A linesman was hit, so was the Zimbabwe coach and the visiting goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, spent the night in hospital after being concussed by a lump of concrete.

Fifa accepted that the Egyptian team was blameless but could not allow the result to stand as a precedent. Already, it has been presented with a lesser but still serious bombardment of coins and other objects hurled at England in Izmir last month, where a youth from Brighton was blinded in one eye.

In Lyons, a draw would now

be enough for Zimbabwe, which includes not only Grobbelaar, of Liverpool, but also the Coventry City winger, Peter Ndlovu, to reach the next African qualifying stage instead of Egypt. Egyptian protests that this is somehow an anti-Arabic punishment, and letters to this newspaper indicating that to report such misbehaviour represents anti-Turkish bias, will not, in Fifa's words, "stop us from trying to put an end to this lawlessness".

In Blatter's eyes, the need for professional refereeing is just as crucial. "Referees are important to this game," he said, "but they're not envoys of God." He believes they must be paid far more than the

£165 per match for Premier League referees and that the authorities must insist on them being fit enough, young enough and accountable enough to cope with the modern pace of the game in which their decisions could alter the livelihoods of millionaire players. "Above all," he said, "we have to ensure that the destructiveness of the last World Cup is not repeated."

He has support from Italy, from the former World Cup referee, Paolo Casarin, who oversees 37 semi-professional referees, each of them paid up to £50,000 during the season. "No longer," Casarin said, "is it acceptable to have an alibi that says, 'OK, I was wrong, I am an amateur.'"

Van Basten will miss Wembley qualifier

GRAHAM Taylor will have one headache fewer when he prepares England for their crucial World Cup qualifying tie with Holland at Wembley in two weeks' time after it became clear yesterday that Marco van Basten will not be fit to lead the Dutch attack.

Van Basten, 28, the European Player for the Year, had been hoping he would recover from surgery on an injured ankle in time to meet England but yesterday his club, AC Milan, ruled out such an early comeback.

Milan, the Italian league leaders, would prefer van Basten to return in time for the European Cup final in Munich on May 26. The Dutchman, arguably the world's best

player, underwent surgery on December 21 to remove cartilage from his right ankle.

Paul Warhurst and David Hirst have both declared themselves fit to play in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley on Sunday, but only one of the Sheffield Wednesday forwards is likely to be chosen to meet Arsenal. Warhurst, 23, is expected to play in the final from the start with Hirst among the substitutes.

The Dundee United defender, Maurice Malpas, damaged knee ligaments in Tuesday night's 3-0 home defeat by Hibernian and is unlikely to be available for Scotland's World Cup qualifier against Portugal in Lisbon later this month.

Williams strikes defiant note

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IF FRANK Bruno sees Carl "The Truth" Williams as little more than an opponent on the way to a million-dollar bout with Lennox Lewis, it could be a serious mistake. That was the warning from the 23-year-old, 225lb former world contender who intends to move back up the rankings at the expense of Britain's most popular boxer.

"I only hope he regards me as a walkover. Looking for the next one is like looking for the next bus that never comes," Williams said yesterday at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, where he will meet Bruno on April 24. "I'm going to put an end to this Lewis-Bruno fight," he added.

Williams, who last boxed in January and was stopped in the eighth round by Tommy Morrison, one of the leading world contenders, said he had not come all this way just to be an opponent. "I'm taking this fight because it offers me the opportunity to get back into the swing of things," Williams

said. "Believe me, I weighed up everything before I took the fight, about Bruno's popularity over here and if I'd get a fair shake. One of the reasons for taking the fight is I was told I'd get fair treatment here in England."

Mickey Duff, Bruno's matchmaker and promoter, confirmed that Williams had told him that he would take

the bout only as long as it was clear he was not coming just to pick up the pay cheque. Duff added that he had had to pay Williams £100,000 to take the bout, which was more than the promoter had paid Bruno's three previous opponents together. Just to be absolutely sure, Duff had also taken options on Williams. "If he wins I will promote his next fight," he said.

Whether or not it was the thought of making £100,000 or simply beating Bruno, "The Truth" looked in remarkably buoyant mood, despite attending a press conference just hours after flying in from New York. He said Bruno's big punch would not save him from defeat. "He's a good puncher no question, but if you don't have anyone to hit it means nothing." It did not matter to Williams that he had been stopped in one round by Mike Tyson and that Bruno had gone five with the former world champion and almost knocked him out.

However, despite his confident manner and claims that he is in good shape, Williams's lack of organisation raises doubts about the seriousness of his intentions. He arrived in Birmingham with only his assistant trainer, Kid Sharkey. And he is not certain whether his chief trainer, John Davenport, will be joining him. Williams's sparring partner is still in the United States looking for a visa.

Winner flies to sevens

ANTHONY Given, of the Croft, Walkers, near Stevinge in Hertfordshire, has won The Times/The Famous Grouse competition offering a VIP trip for two to the Rugby World Cup Sevens this weekend. Mr Given, with a guest of his choice, will fly to Edinburgh on Saturday, enjoy dinner, bed and breakfast at the Balmoral Hotel and watch the final day of the tournament at Murrayfield before flying home.

Mr Given's was the first drawn from all correct entries received. Ten runners-up have won The Famous Grouse/Rugby World Cup Sevens sweatshirt and a special presentation bottle of The Famous Grouse whisky. They are: Mr Andy Crichton, London; Mr Tom Jervis, Tysoe, Warwick; Mrs Helen Jenkins, Cardiff; Mr Jonathan Peplow, London; Mr Alex Theos, Northwood, Middlesex; Mr Peter Harris, St Andrews, Fife; Mr Mark Mather, Weymouth, Dorset; Mr Tony Booth, Harrow, Middlesex; Mr Douglas McKenzie, Uxbridge, Middlesex; and Mr Kenneth Scott, Richmond, Surrey.

ANSWERS: 1, Mescal Resort, 2, Eric Rush, 3, Laurent Cabannes, 4, Michael Lynagh, 5, Magsdale Senesi, 6, Derek Sear, 7, David Corcoran.

Llewellyn leads Wales tour

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE maturing of Gareth Llewellyn took a step forward when it was announced yesterday he would lead Wales on their tour of Zimbabwe and Namibia next month. Two years ago, Llewellyn was involved in the disgraceful brawl that ended Wales's summer tour of Australia; he now becomes the 104th player to lead his country's rugby union side.

Llewellyn, 24, has worked hard in the intervening period to become a genuine international lock. Neath demonstrated their faith in his potential by making him captain this season and his form reached its peak in Wales's solitary championship win against England this season.

Now, the Welsh pack leader has put behind him the scuffle in Brisbane between Welsh players that followed the humiliating 63-6 defeat by Australia. "It gets blown out of proportion," he said. "Any bad feeling has long gone. I was disappointed not to have been picked for the British Lions but being made captain of Wales is just as good an honour."

There were several captaincy candidates in the 26-strong squad that will play full internationals against Zimbabwe, twice, and Namibia before closing with a game against the South African Barbarians — who are arranging an autumn tour to Britain — in Windhoek.

However, Robert Jones and

Rupert Moon will be busy contesting the scrum-half berth and Mike Hall has had a chequered fitness background this season. He saw a specialist yesterday to see if a groin injury will clear in time to allow him to tour. Only two of the players who appeared in the five nations' championship, less Wales's four Lions, have not found places in the party — Ricky Evans and Nigel Meek.

Even so, Evans, the Llanelli prop, and Meek, the Pontypool hooker, may appear in the other touring parties. Wales will choose this summer, a development team and an under-21 team.

Roger Biggdon, the Newport centre, is likely to tour if Hall is unfit but the party is dominated by Llanelli, with 11 representatives. Since they remain on course for a league and cup double, it is hardly

WALE'S PARTY

BACKS: M. Rayer (Cardiff), I. Jones (Llanelli), W. Proctor (Llanelli), N. Waller (Cardiff), M. Hall (Cardiff), N. Davies (Pontypool), A. Davies (Cardiff), R. Jones (Swansea), R. Moon (Llanelli). FORWARDS: I. Buckett (Swansea), J. Davies (Neath), M. Griffiths (Cardiff), H. Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), A. Lamerston (Llanelli), R. McBryde (Swansea), P. Arnold (Swansea), A. Copeley (Llanelli), P. Davies (Llanelli), G. Llewellyn (Neath), L. Jones (Llanelli), E. Lewis (Llanelli), M. Peregé (Swansea), A. Williams (Bristol), S. Davies (Swansea). Manager: R. Norris. Coach: A. Davies. ITINERARY: May 22 v Zimbabwe (Bulawayo), 25 v Zimbabwe B (Harare), 26 v Zimbabwe (Harare), June 2 v Namibia B (Windhoek), 6 v Namibia (Windhoek), 8 v SA Barbarians (Windhoek).

Fiji warm to task in sevens

By ALAN LORIMER

surprising. Six of the party have yet to win full caps: backs, Ian Jones and Neil Boobyer, and the forwards, Robin McBryde, Ian Buckett, Lyn Jones and Andrew Williams.

But there is a strong thread of experience in Hall, Robert Jones and Mike Griffiths — all of whom are Lions — plus Phil Davies. It will be needed not so much in Zimbabwe but in Namibia, where four of the party — Griffiths, Buckett, Mike Rayer and Paul Arnold — toured in 1990.

The Rugby Football Union expects a low attendance for the ADT county championship final between Lancashire and Yorkshire at Twickenham on Saturday, the first time these two strongholds of county rugby have met in the final.

Even though it will be the one hundredth Roses encounter and Lancashire, the holders, will be trying to establish a record by winning the championship for a sixteenth time, the paying spectators will probably number no more than 7,000.

The figure is comparable to the attendance for the Provincial Insurance Cup final between Fleetwood and Hitchin, also at Twickenham, earlier this month.

Fewer than 400 tickets have been sold by Lancashire whereas Yorkshire have disposed of about 4,000. Buckinghamshire play Warwickshire in the curtain-raiser, the under-21 county final.

KITONE Tuibua, the Fiji coach, is confident that his side can regain its world supremacy in the inaugural World Cup rugby sevens, which begin at Murrayfield tomorrow.

"Being beaten by Western Samoa in Hong Kong was a blessing in disguise," he said yesterday before Fiji trained against Edinburgh Wanderers players. "We have worked hard to rectify our faults, particularly at set-piece moves and restarts."

The cold in Edinburgh has been a problem for the Fijians but Tuibua has had his players out early in the morning acclimatising. "I have advised the players not to wear too many warm clothes. We have to be able to play in the Scottish cold," he said.

Craig Chalmers, of Scotland, Robert Jones, of Wales, and Ian Hunter, of England, all predicted in Edinburgh yesterday that Fiji would win. Wayne Shelford, the former All Black captain, tipped New Zealand, however. "The teams that get to the final will have to play five hard games on Sunday and I think that New Zealand will be best equipped to cope with the pressure," he said. Tuibua said that his players were used to playing a lot of games in their domestic tournaments.

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THURSDAY APRIL 15 1993



First steps: the Oxford University players enter the field against Durham at The Parks yesterday as the new first-class cricket season got under way

Pakistan finally agree to play

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN PORT OF SPAIN
TRINIDAD

THE first Test match between West Indies and Pakistan will not begin today, as scheduled, but tomorrow. The reason is that, over the last 36 hours, the Pakistanis have been behaving as capriciously as only they can.

Rather than putting behind them the goings on in Grenada — when four of their players were arrested on drug charges, which were withdrawn on Monday — they have been using them to embarrass everyone here, even to the point of threatening to go home.

Because, in their hearts, the players must always have known what is right, there was never much doubt that the match would go ahead. Had it been otherwise, the Pakistanis could have done themselves

nothing but harm, not only in the eyes of the cricket world. But until yesterday morning, they seemed determined to see the events of last week not as a spur but as an indignity.

Rather than insisting that his players get on with the job in hand and show themselves to be the best cricketers in the game, Khalid Mahmood, their manager, did less to stifle their brooding than to foster it. He has been talking of his players feeling insecure.

More than that, though, he is aggrieved that no higher official than the assistant secretary of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control was in Grenada in Pakistan's time of need.

With the arrival from Barbados yesterday of Steve Camacho, the secretary of the West Indies board, Mahmood felt happier so that, in the end, a compromise was agreed and the following issued:

JOHN Morris, the England batsman, scored the first century of the cricket season yesterday, helping himself to 136 out of Derbyshire's 380 for five against Cambridge University at Fenner's. Morris was treated generously,

being dropped three times before he reached his century. Tim O'Gorman also scored a hundred for Derbyshire. In The Parks, Oxford University dismissed Durham for only 191 but were 34 for five in reply. Reports, page 44

"Representatives of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) met today with Mr K Mahmood, the manager of the Pakistan touring team, to discuss matters arising out of an incident on the Grenada leg of the tour.

"The WICBC very much regrets any embarrassment to which the Pakistan team may have been subjected arising out of this incident. The Board has also assured the Pakistan management that every effort has been made to ensure the security of the team during the course of the tour.

It is with no little irony that I recall how every cricketing official in Pakistan went to ground at the time of the Gating-Shakoor Rana affair at Faisalabad in 1987, leaving Peter Lush, the England man-

ager, trying desperately to pick up the scent. But on that occasion, England were keen to get on with the game; here, the Pakistanis have had to persuade themselves of that.

This is particularly disappointing when so much of cricket is played in the mind, and in view of what is at stake. Nobody could seriously dispute that this three-Test Cable and Wireless series is for the unofficial championship of the world. Shortcomings can be covered up in the one-day game much more easily than over five days. The last 19 meetings of the sides have been in one-day cricket when, as often as not, the taking of wickets has been secondary to the scoring of runs.

Now, there can be no winners without one side or the other being bowled out. We have come, at last, to the acid test and there is no doubt at the moment which of the

protagonists is more in the mood for it.

Before yesterday was done, two of the legal advisers to the Pakistanis — Ramash Maharaj, from Trinidad, and Ash Karim, an international lawyer acting for the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, and based in London — with the Pakistan manager between them, felt obliged to hold a conference at which they referred to the "arbitrary, high-handed and altogether baseless prosecution" of the four Pakistanis in Grenada.

The termination of the prosecution "could not possibly be regarded as sufficient redress for the injustices caused and occasioned by the action of the Grenadian authorities". This could attract claims by the players worth "millions of dollars", they said. By now, mercifully, Pakistan's cricketers were getting ready for tomorrow.

Lawrence suffers unfamiliar change in fortune



Lawrence, determined

LENNIE Lawrence cannot wait to see the back of 1993. "Last year was one of the best of my life. This has turned into one of the worst," he said after conceding that his Middlesbrough team was destined for relegation from the Premier League after Monday's defeat at Crystal Palace. It is a wild fluctuation in fortune that Lawrence, so used to consistent success, or at least survival, in his previous spell in the manager's chair at Charlton Athletic, finds unfamiliar and painful.

Such ups and downs are all too familiar to Middlesbrough supporters, though. This is the eighth successive season they have been attempting to either stay up or go up — a yo-yo

Louise Taylor investigates why the proven survival instincts of their manager have failed to bring stability to Middlesbrough

tendency shared with their north-east neighbours, Sunderland and Newcastle United. Lawrence, who spent nine years in charge at Charlton — Middlesbrough tried their luck under five different managers in that time — had hoped to put a halt to it.

Instead, his, and Middlesbrough's, season has fluctuated in the now-traditional Teesside style. "Without a doubt, this has gone from being a real high point to the most depressing time of my

career," he said. "It's different from Charlton. Charlton and The Valley was a chess. The players knew their limitations. From the start of every season, they knew it was going to be a battle. The cause made motivation easy."

Famed as one of the game's better man-managers — his trademark at Charlton, who he kept in the old first division for four unlikely seasons, was transforming other people's no-hopers into successful players — Lawrence has learned

that motivation takes on a whole new meaning in the North East, where managers must contend with the hype factor. He feels that his squad may have sub-consciously suffered from life in an environment where ordinary players can be treated as extraordinary.

"This Middlesbrough squad is honest and spirited," he said, "but some thought they were better than they actually are. Then confidence went — some might be scarred for the rest of their careers by their failure to cope — we had a bad run of injuries and people just didn't cover themselves in the glory expected."

Lawrence's is very much an isolated southern voice at the

club. Apart from the midfield player, Robbie Mustoe, everyone else at Ayresome Park was born north of the Trent. Yet, despite all his difficulties, he intends to keep his jacket on the back of the manager's chair for a few years yet.

"If I get sacked, that's life, but I didn't come to fiddle for 18 months [Middlesbrough were promoted last year after his first season] and go," he said. "What would be the point for me or the club?"

"Going down is a major setback in my planning, but we have some good youngsters and, with a clear out in the summer, the future should be bright." And Middlesbrough will probably be celebrating promotion next year.

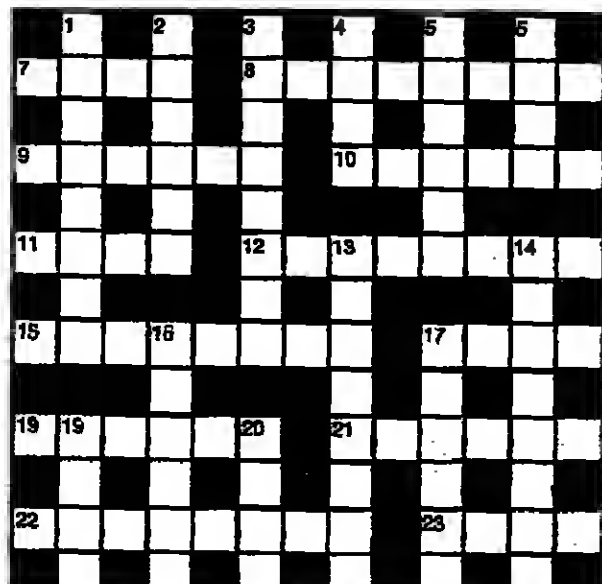
CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3072

- ACROSS
- 7 Carthage founder (4)
 - 8 Bricked in (6,2)
 - 9 Hope (6)
 - 10 Roof window (6)
 - 11 Superficially wound (4)
 - 12 Vast shop (8)
 - 13 Evaluator (8)
 - 14 Salute (4)
 - 15 Work periods (6)
 - 16 Head swathe (6)
 - 22 Declare (8)
 - 23 Flaccid (4)
- DOWN
- 1 Vessel centre (8)
 - 2 Wall slope top (6)
 - 3 Hair pluckers (8)
 - 4 Pleased (4)
 - 5 Great fear (6)
 - 6 Sixth month (4)
 - 13 On short week (4,4)
 - 14 Roused to protest (2,2,4)
 - 15 Consequence (6)
 - 16 Obstacle (6)
 - 19 Difficult (4)
 - 20 Slaughter (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3071

- ACROSS: 1 Clout 4 Sequels 8 Rationale 9 Bib 10 Tao 11 Appetiser 12 Karma 13 Overs 16 Tradesman 18 Tip 20 Hit 21 Kinkiness 22 Pirates 23 Elegy
- DOWN: 1 Carat 2 Outdoor 3 Thomas A Becket 4 Sharps 5 Questionnaire 6 Emulus 7 Suburbs 12 Ketchup 14 Extreme 15 Amends 17 After 19 Pushy

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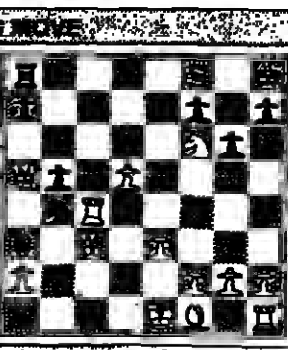


WRITING MOVES

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Shabalov — Georges, Suhr 1992. White has a powerful line-up of queen and knight on the a1-h8 diagonal, but black also has his own threats. How did white continue?

Solution on page 44



WORD-WATCHING

- ENUCLEATE
- To isolate the nucleus of a cell
 - To extract radioactive properties
 - The eye coming out of its socket
- TAOVALA
- Large belt made from maring
 - A Hungarian pudding
 - An inhabitant of Taov.

- New Mexico
- NIAOULI
- A venomous spider
 - A type of tree
 - A variant of pasta from Nigeria
- RAMBO
- A variety of cooking apple
 - An Italian word for an unruly person
 - A Spanish waterless ravine
- Answers on page 44

When London jog can pay more than the winning slog

David Powell asks

whether the public is
being short-changed
by marathon runners
paid just to turn up

Every year, the London Marathon spends hundreds of thousands of pounds to lure some of the best international distance running names that money can buy, and what happens? More often than not someone from the lower-paid classes goes and wins it.

Last year it was Antonio Pinto, ranked 29th among those invited; the year before Yakov Tolstikov. Yakov who? While thousands shuffle their way from Greenwich to Westminster, making what they can for charity, big money is directed at the elite for just turning up. The prize-money — there is more than £235,000 of it this year — is much less than the appearance-fees budget.

In 1989, Gelindo Bordin, the Olympic champion, was offered £118,000 to run. Liz McColgan's deal to participate in the next three London Marathons is close to £500,000.

But is London getting value for money? McColgan could trip at the start on Sunday and, though likely to lose a slice from a reduction clause in her contract, still be rewarded handsomely.

"The money would not be wasted because the event needs the publicity beforehand," Kim McDonald, McColgan's manager, argues. But would it not be better spent on prize-money?

Hugh Jones won in 1982, appearing for free. "There is an argument for paying appearance money, but the balance has become loaded the wrong way," Jones said.

Something means changing because, worldwide, times are markedly slower than they were in the Eighties.

"If McColgan really is getting £450,000, that dwarfs all monies that she is being offered and I can't see there is any real incentive for her to go for the world record," Jones said. "If she was in a position where she just had to run relatively easy to pick up her appearance money of £150,000 and \$55,000 for winning, is she going to be

bothered about another \$50,000 for the record?" Spending on improved prize-money for the first 20 might see athletes working harder, inspiring more competitive races and faster times. Would it work? "I think it would," Jones said.

David Bedford, London's international race director, is poised to implement change next year. For the men's race, he is considering cutting out appearance fees and time bonuses and putting it all into prize-money, "because there are no truly outstanding male marathon runners in this year's field."

Nothing will change for the women, though. Women's marathon running has two big personalities, both running in London: McColgan and Lisa Ondieki. "If I had done it for the women this year Lisa and Liz would never have signed up," Bedford said. "They are being paid bucketloads and it's worth every penny."

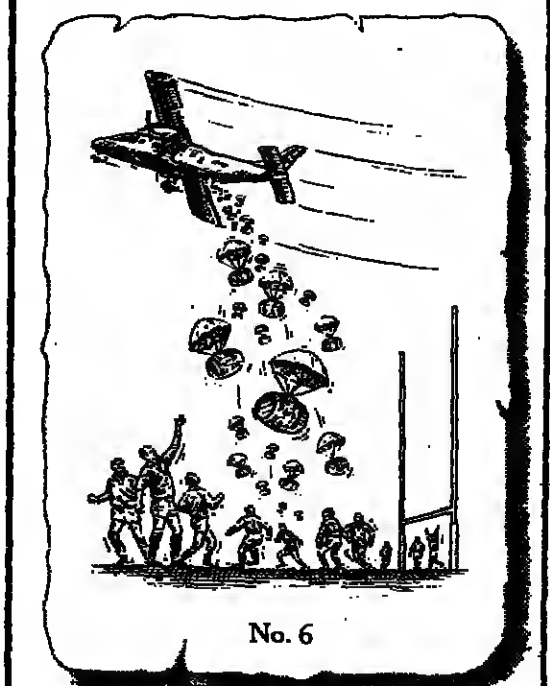
The three fastest men's times ever were set in Rotterdam, all in the Eighties. Jo Hermens, Rotterdam's international race director, is spending two-thirds of his budget in appearance money for this year's race. "I do not think the slower times have anything to do with appearance money," Hermens said. Global warming and more accurate (i.e. longer) courses, yes. Loss of incentive, no. Perhaps Rob de Castella, the former world champion, hit upon the answer yesterday. "The Eighties was an exciting period for the marathon; it came of age and people were concentrating on running fast. Some of the competitiveness has gone out of the sport."

Full results of the NutraSweet London Marathon will be published exclusively next week in *The Times*. The race, which is the biggest marathon in the world with 34,000 entries, will be run on Sunday.

THE FAMOUS GROUSE

FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

— Rugby Curiosities —



No. 6

During a hectic tour in 1974, the British Lions took a few days off to unwind. This they did with gusto. A 'provisions' plane was despatched for refuelling a mere 24 hours after landing.

